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The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research had an excellent year in 2010, with a pleasing result from our grant applications to the National Health and Medical Research Council, and other infrastructure support.

In particular we note funding grants such as an NHMRC Partnership Grant for the Enhancing Treatment of Hepatitis C Opiate Substitution Settings study (ETHOS) and an NHMRC Project Grant to investigate resistance to antivirals in acute HCV; an NHMRC Program Grant in sexually transmissible infections, which funded an expansion of the activities of the Biostatistics and Database Program, in particular the collection of data concerning trends in STI diagnoses in HIV-positive patients; NHMRC Project Grants for very promising work concerning transcriptional silencing of HIV-1 and for the investigation of memory CD4 T-cells that harbour latent HIV infection, as well as an ARC Linkage grant for in vivo molecular imaging.

Major studies have opened and others have closed. After much anticipation we were pleased to see SECOND-LINE study commence recruitment in 49 sites across 18 countries; and the CORAL and Encore2 studies were completed and presented at national and international meetings. The START pilot phase of enrolment was completed in mid 2010. As a consequence of achieving this key milestone, the Division of AIDS at the US NIAID announced in September that the study would proceed into the definitive phase, with the number of sites globally being tripled in order to achieve the target enrolment of 4000 participants before the end of 2012.

The CONNECT project, an NHMRC-funded study of the social norms regarding HIV/STI risk and risk reduction behaviours among MSM, also began in 2010, while the SPARTAC trial, the largest randomised trial conducted at primary HIV infection, was successfully completed. 2010 saw the start of the STRIVE study, a collaboration between three of the National Centre’s ten research groups in which an intervention of a sexual health quality improvement program is being rolled out in a clustered randomised community trial in remote communities in Far North Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Substantial work has continued on the collaboration between our organisation and the Universities of Melbourne, Adelaide and Western Australia which started last year as the result of an NHMRC program grant for a program titled HIV and HCV Vaccines and Immunopathogenesis. The five-year grant addresses the development of vaccines and better treatments for HIV and hepatitis C and brings together a team of researchers with skills in basic virology and immunology with those providing expertise in translational lab work.

We also look ahead to the 25th anniversary in 2011 of the establishment of Australia’s three National Centres of HIV Research, a bold step by the Federal Government in the face of the emerging pandemic. Of course, over the years, the work of this National Centre has broadened considerably from our HIV base, and we are proud to apply the lessons from HIV to a broad range of infectious diseases, particularly viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible diseases.

The National Centre’s achievements can in part be measured by the achievements of our staff in the lists of publications and presentations and other measures of professional recognition noted in this annual report. I thank all of them for their contribution, and I also thank the Faculty of Medicine at The University of New South Wales for its continuing support for our work.

David Cooper

foreword
Progress was made in achieving ethical and regulatory approvals at completed in January. Data were analysed and an abstract presented in different doses of lopinavir/ritonavir in HIV-negative volunteers was completed in 2010. Encore3, a study of the safety and pharmacokinetics of three Encore2, a randomised pharmacokinetic study of a reduced dose versus the standard dose of efavirenz. A protocol amendment allowed inclusion of dried blood spots for analysis of efavirenz concentrations and HIV viral load, vitamin D monitoring and mid-interval monitoring of efavirenz pharmacokinetics within the main protocol, as well as intensive pharmacokinetics and CNS sub-studies.

In February 2010, the ALT AIR CNS sub-study was presented at the CROI conference in San Francisco and both data from the primary analysis to week 48 and the CNS effects of study treatment were published in Clinical Infectious Diseases. In October, four ALT A IR-related presentations were made at the ASHM conference and the ALT A IR study continued to an extended week 144 visit. The START pilot phase of enrolment was completed in mid 2010. As a consequence of achieving this key milestone, Division of AIDS, NIAID, announced in September 2010 that that study would proceed into the definitive phase, which is now proceeding with the number of sites globally being tripled in order to achieve the target enrolment of 4000 participants before the end of 2012. In addition, the MARCH study contracts between UNSW and Pfizer/ViiV Healthcare were agreed in principle in October 2010.

The Director Professor David A. Cooper AO FAA has been the primary driver behind the success of the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research since its inception in 1986. Professor Cooper is one of the world’s most eminent and respected HIV clinical scientists. In addition to his enormous clinical experience Professor Cooper is widely recognised for his contributions to the field in HIV immunology and infectious diseases. This is further exemplified by his role in supporting the disciplines of virological, immunological, pharmacological and neurological research in one organisation. He has assembled a world class research team at NCHECR that influences and supports activities globally through extensive national, regional and international collaborations.

The Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

The Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program (TVRP) conducts a range of clinical trials designed to assess the effectiveness of new HIV therapies or candidate vaccines. These studies often provide not just biomedical data, but also evidence of the impact of policy practice and therapeutic guidelines in both resource-rich and resource-limited settings. TVRP staff provide leadership through the program’s role as an International Co-ordinating Centre for the INSIGHT network, a major international collaboration for the conduct of large clinical endpoint strategic trials in HIV disease which has more than 300 sites in 30 countries.

After much anticipation the SECOND-LINE study commenced recruitment in 2010. This clinical trial was designed to investigate the safety and efficacy of ritonavir-boosted lopinavir and 2-3NRTI backbone in participants virologically failing first-line therapy. The study is being conducted in 49 sites across 18 countries. By December, 166 patients were randomised across 13 countries, with 42 sites open. It is planned for the study to be fully recruited by Q3 2011. CORAL was completed and presented at national and international meetings. Encore2, a randomised pharmacokinetic study of a reduced dose versus standard dose 3TC in HIV-negative volunteers, was completed in May 2010. Encore3, a study of the safety and pharmacokinetics of three different doses of lopinavir/ritonavir in HIV-negative volunteers was completed in January. Data were analysed and an abstract presented in November in Glasgow Kingdom.

Progress was made in achieving ethical and regulatory approvals at many of the 51 sites across five continents involved in the Encore1, a study of a reduced dose versus the standard dose of efavirenz. A protocol amendment allowed inclusion of dried blood spots for analysis of efavirenz concentrations and HIV viral load, vitamin D monitoring and mid-interval monitoring of efavirenz pharmacokinetics within the main protocol, as well as intensive pharmacokinetics and CNS sub-studies.

The Biostatistical and Database Program

The Biostatistics and Databases Program has a collaborative biostatistical research role across many of the NCHECR’s programs and activities. This includes ensuring the statistical design and analysis of clinical trials and epidemiological studies are to appropriate international standards. The program also develops traditional CRF and web-based databases, for research studies and national surveillance activities.

In addition to collaborative activities with other programs, the program has independent research activities in a number of areas. First, the program leads a number of large, observational cohort studies. These include adult HIV cohorts in Australia and Asia, paediatric HIV cohorts in Asia, and an adult HCV cohort in Australia. These studies aim to assess treatment and outcomes in HIV and HCV disease. Second, the program has an active mathematical modelling group. This group is largely focused on transmission, and interventions aimed at preventing transmission, of certain sexually transmissible infections, including HPV, gonorrhoea and chlamydia. Third, the program has an active interest in linkage studies, including linkage of HIV, HBV, HCV and cohort studies to hospitalisation, cancer and death registries. These linkage studies describe longer term outcomes and epidemiological patterns.

Highlights of 2010 in the Biostatistics Program include NHMRC program grant funding in sexually transmissible infections, which commenced in 2010. This funded expansion of BD P activities, in particular the collection of STI data in the Australian HIV Observational...
The HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

The HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program (HEPP) conducts research into the transmission and prevention of HIV and sexually transmissible infections (STIs), and on the natural history of HIV. Our work is multidisciplinary and collaborative. We work in partnership with communities most affected by HIV, particularly the gay community and those people living with HIV. We work across the spectrum of biomedical, behavioural and structural prevention, because effective HIV prevention acknowledges the complexities of everyday life for at-risk communities. Our work includes behavioural risk surveillance, studies of risk behaviour, and studies of use of biomedical preventive interventions. Researchers in HEPP conduct a range of work on the intersection of infection, immunity and cancer to inform our knowledge of how we might prevent cancer in people with HIV. A particular focus is the prevention of anal cancer in gay men.

Highlights of 2010 for the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program include the commencement of the NHMRC funded CONNECT project. CONNECT is the short title for the NHMRC funded study Social norms and public health at the 26th International Papilloma virus conference in Montreal for a presentation entitled A national outcome for cardiovascular risk assessment in this group, and improve patient management and outcomes.

Professor Andrew Grulich, heads the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program with a focus on cohort studies in at risk populations linked to behavioural investigations. These types of research are central to the evaluation of biomedical prevention strategies such as vaccines, microbicides and chemoprophylaxis. Professor Grulich is also a world authority on the serious emerging issue of cancer in HIV. Andrew has been at NCHECR for 17 years.

The Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

The Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program (IVPP) was formed in 2005, resulting from the amalgamation of the Laboratory Support Program, and Primary HIV Infection Research Programs. The group works very closely with the Immunovirology group at the St Vincent’s Centre for Applied Medical Research. The activities of the IVPP can be divided into three categories. A substantial proportion of laboratory-based activity is directed towards providing routine or semi-routine laboratory support essential for the successful conduct of clinical trials and epidemiological studies conducted by NCHECR, through specimen processing and conduct of specialised immunological and virological assays. These include immunogenicity assays for vaccine trials. The second component is the conduct of clinical trials and natural history studies in pathogenically informative populations of patients with HIV-infection such as those identified with primary infection and long term non-progressors. Finally, senior scientists and academics within the program are responsible for their own research projects on pathogenesis and development of therapeutics.

Immunopathogenesis work currently relates to CD4 T-cell function in early HIV infection and in natural controllers of the disease. Novel methodologies for the characterisation of antigen-specific T cells and T regulatory cell have been established allowing the functional and molecular characterisation of these difficult to study cells. These novel methodologies have substantial implications for the understanding of the immunopathogenesis of a range of infections apart from HIV infection, including Hepatitis C and autoimmune diseases. It has also allowed us to gain insights into the location of reservoirs of HIV infections. The effect of early therapeutic intervention with integrate inhibitors and other anti-retroviral regimens on these reservoirs is one of the major current focuses within the laboratory.

2010 saw the IVPP successfully complete the SPARTAC trial, the largest randomised trial conducted at primary HIV infection as well as the PriRIS and TBox40 studies. IVPP commenced an NHMRC project grant titled siRNA induced transcriptional silencing of HIV-1: Elucidating the mechanisms and exploring options for delivery as well as an ARC Linkage grant: In vivo molecular imaging using engineered affinity reagents and fluorescent laser scanning confocal endomicroscopy. The program was awarded an additional NHMRC project grant: Antigen specificity and function of memory CD4 T cells that harbour latent HIV infection. Two back-to-back publications were accepted in the journal of Immunology, which define the determinants of late escape in HLA-B27 long term non-progressors.
The Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

The Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program was formed in 2003 and is a rapidly expanding area of clinical research and development within the NCHECR. The program focuses on therapeutic research in viral hepatitis and the activities of the program can be divided into 3 main areas. Clinical research including clinical trials forms the main part of the program's work. The second component is the recently established viral hepatitis sample repository, HepBank, for molecular virology research. The third component is epidemiological research through data linkage studies and mathematical modelling.

Particular areas of interest for the program are the natural history of newly acquired Hepatitis C (HCV) and treatment of acute and chronic HCV particularly in the setting of injection drug use. The program also has a strong interest in HIV/HCV and HIV/HBV coinfection. Further, a recent focus on HCV reinfection, superinfection and protective immunity has seen the expansion of laboratory based viral hepatitis research. The Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program liaises with all other programs within the NCHECR, as well as with hepatologists, infectious disease physicians and primary care networks nationwide.

Future aims of the program include continuing to design and coordinate multi-centre clinical research trials in viral hepatitis and the expansion of the research networks in Australia, Asia and internationally. Additionally, an expansion of the sample repository and molecular virological research is planned.

2010 brought an NHMRC Partnership Grant award for the Enhancing Treatment of Hepatitis C Opiate Substitution Settings study (ETHOS) and enrolment of 216 of 500 subjects. In addition, the National Institute of Drug Abuse RO1 awarded the program a renewal grant for the Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C study (ATAHC) (see Research studies). A further NHMRC Project Grant was awarded to evaluate naturally occurring resistance to Direct Acting Antiviral drugs in acute hepatitis C. The program oversaw an expansion of the viral hepatitis laboratory research program, including collaborations with several internationally renowned research groups; and there was a publication in Hepatology on the role of Interleukin-28B (IL28B) genotype in recent HCV infection.

Professor Greg Dore heads the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program that investigates new treatments for people infected with hepatitis B or C and particularly those co-infected with HIV in which the hepatic complications represent a significant co-morbidity. He has been at NCHECR for more than 16 years.

The Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

The Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program strives to conduct multidisciplinary public health research that is ethical, innovative and makes a difference. We are proud of, and committed to, working in partnership with affected communities in Australia and internationally to achieve our goals. Key aims of the program are to initiate and undertake epidemiological, social and behavioural research examining viral hepatitis and public health issues associated with drug use and risk behaviour; design and implement trials of behavioural and biomedical prevention interventions designed to prevent viral hepatitis and other infectious diseases in vulnerable populations; to conduct and support surveillance activities including monitoring trends in blood-borne virus incidence, prevalence and risk behaviour among people who inject drugs; to translate research outcomes into evidence-based public health practice; and to build capacity for research, surveillance and harm reduction within Australia and the region through the provision of training and technical assistance.

Highlights of 2010 for VHEPP include the 16th annual Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANPS), Australia's internationally recognised surveillance system for monitoring the prevalence of anti-HIV and HCV and associated risk factors among people who inject drugs. A special 16 year report summarising data from 1995 to 2010 will be published in 2011. In 2010, recruitment to the NHMRC-funded Hepatitis Acceptability and Vaccine Incentives Trial (HAVIT), a two-arm randomised trial examining the efficacy of financial incentives in increasing hepatitis B immunisation completion in people who inject drugs was completed. During the year, recruitment and follow-up continued for the Hepatitis Incidence and Transmission Study – community (HITS-c), a prospective observational study of anti-HCV negative people who inject drugs. Initially funded under the UNSW Hepatitis C Vaccine Initiative, the cohort is now funded by NHMRC as part of a program of HCV Vaccine preparedness research.

Papers published by VHEPP staff and students included a 15 year review of HIV surveillance among people who inject drugs in AIDS, a paper in the British Medical Journal on the impact of opiate substitution treatment on survival and long term injecting cessation, and a review of the challenges and opportunities of conducting candidate HCV vaccine trials with people who inject drugs in Vaccine (see Publications section). International projects in 2010 included a longitudinal study of Culture and HIV Prevention in Cambodia, examining the social and environmental influences on injection drug use conducted with collaborators at the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS in Vancouver, and an ARC-funded cluster randomised trial of non-pharmaceutical protection against influenza in Vietnam in collaboration with the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW.

Professor Tony Kelleher is head of the Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program, and works closely at a laboratory level with colleagues from SVH. This program gives lab support across the organisation, as well as conducting world-class research, presently focussed on the design and development of novel assays, and the study of micro RNAs, fine mapping of T-cell fn, and the transcriptional gene silencing of HIV by siRNA.

Professor Lisa Maher is head of the Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program. Professor Maher conducts ethnographic, epidemiological and clinical research on drug use and related harms and studies of interventions designed to prevent infectious diseases in vulnerable populations, including people who inject drugs (PWID) and female sex workers.
The Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

The Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health (SEPPH) monitors the pattern of transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis, and specific sexually transmissible infections in Australia, assesses past and expected epidemic trends, and evaluates the epidemiological impact and cost-effectiveness of public health intervention strategies and programs. SEPPH also evaluates HIV epidemics and develops research capacity in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Surveillance activities are conducted in collaboration with the Australian Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing, State and Territory health authorities and collaborating networks. Analyses and interpretation of recent trends in new diagnoses of HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs, and estimates of prevalence and incidence in key population subgroups are published in our Annual Surveillance Report. Public release datasets on new HIV and AIDS diagnoses are also available for download.

SEPPH, of the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, is a collaborating unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. SEPPH carries out extensive mathematical modelling research in order to evaluate public health programs, understand drivers of epidemic trends, project future epidemic trajectories, and assess the potential impact of public health strategies. This research is focused on HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmissible infections in Australian populations and on HIV/AIDS in the Southeast Asia and Pacific region. This evaluation is often extended to health economic analyses of different programs or interventions. SEPPH is also involved in building research capacity in the areas of epidemiology, biostatistics, mathematical modelling, and other biomedical research associated with HIV/AIDS in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

2010 saw the release of the Surveillance Reports, including the fourteenth annual review of available surveillance data pertaining to the occurrence of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia, and the fourth annual Bloodborne viral and sexually transmissible infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Surveillance and Evaluation Report.

Surveillance activities broadened with commencing analyses for the first surveillance report on transfusion transmissible infections in Australia in collaboration with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. Cross-program contributions including the establishment of the National Trachoma Surveillance and Reporting Unit at UNSW and development of the National BBV and STI Surveillance and Monitoring Plan, as well as the conduct of modelling and acceptability studies of HIV in NSW. In 2010, SEPPH also organised the NSW HIV and STIs surveillance forum and think tank for around 70 participants at the Australia Technology Park. Internationally, SEPPH broadened in scope and influence in the evaluation of HIV epidemics working closely with the Vietnam Administration for AIDS Control and the Ministry of Health in China. SEPPH has also been developing country-specific models for Indonesia, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea for the interpretation of public health surveillance data. The program’s experience evaluating the cost-effectiveness of blood-borne viruses in Australia has been applied to collaborate with 13 countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Major Australian modelling and evaluation activities included the dissemination of recommendations from the National Gay Men’s Syphilis Action Plan and the release of reports on Mapping HIV outcomes: geographical and clinical forecasts of numbers of people living with HIV in Australia and evaluation of HIV in South Australia. In addition, an epidemiological and economic model for evaluating prevention and treatment strategies for responding to hepatitis C epidemics was developed.

Associate Professor David Wilson, head of the Surveillance and Epidemiology Program for Public Health, has presided over a restructuring and expansion of our surveillance work in the few short years since he joined us. His program has extended its standing monitoring of HIV, viral hepatitis, and specific sexually transmissible infections to the assessment of past and expected epidemic trends, and evaluates the epidemiological impact and cost-effectiveness of public health strategies.

The Sexual Health Program

The Sexual Health Program leads and participates in research into the epidemiology, surveillance, microbiology, clinical management, and prevention of sexually transmissible infections (STIs); including, but not limited to, chlamydia, syphilis, gonorrhoea, human papillomavirus infection, herpes simplex virus infection, and HIV infection. Our program is also involved in research into the behaviour and sexual health of priority populations for STI control such as youth, gay men, sex workers, Aboriginal people, prisoners, and travellers. The Sexual Health Program works closely with several other programs within the Kirby Institute. The program also collaborates with a national network of 25 specialist sexual health services; research laboratories in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and PNG; the School of Population Health at the University of Melbourne; the Burnet Institute in Melbourne; and the Menzies School of Health Research. Methodologies used in the program’s research range from descriptive epidemiology with novel analytical techniques, molecular epidemiology, enhanced surveillance strategies, data linkage studies, social and behavioural research, test evaluations, detecting antimicrobial resistance, evaluating and improving health care delivery, legal and policy research, anthropology, and biomedical prevention.

In November, the program published the first report of a national decline in genital warts in young women resulting from the national HPV vaccination program that was launched in 2007. The article, which attracted national and international interest, also found a decline in genital warts amongst heterosexual men, thought to be a result of herd immunity; there was no significant decline among older women and men who have sex with men.

The Law and Sexworker Health (LASH) team, led by Basil Donovan, published a report on The Sex Industry in Western Australia. Funded by the WA Department of Health, the report, which made extensive recommendations for law reform and enhanced health promotion for sex workers, resulted in a review of the WA legislative response to prostitution as well as health services for sex workers.
The ACCESS (Australian collaboration for chlamydia enhanced sentinel surveillance) project produced its first of several reports. The ACCESS project comprises six separate clinical networks and a laboratory network, each providing unique information on testing uptake and positivity for chlamydia in a range of priority populations such as young heterosexuals, men who have sex with men, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, pregnant women and sex workers.

After years of planning, the ACCEPt (Australian Chlamydia control effectiveness pilot) project finally began recruiting towns for this community-cluster randomised trial of intensified chlamydia screening. In 2010 further funding was granted by the NHMRC to continue the trial to its endpoint of reduced chlamydia prevalence. The ACCEPt trial is led by A/Prof Jane Hocking at the University of Melbourne with input from several NCHECR programs.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program was established in 2007. The program works collaboratively across sectors to close the gap in health disparity between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people, with a key focus upon sexual health and blood borne viruses. The particular objective of the program is to enhance the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in responding to STIs, HIV and viral hepatitis.

The program has four main domains of activity that aim to increase the level of Sexual Health and BBV knowledge within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities:

- Research: To conduct research in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the areas of STIs, HIV/AIDS and other BBVs;
- Surveillance: To support existing surveillance activities and to identify innovative new areas and methods of surveillance that will benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;
- Capacity Building: To work with existing health services to enhance the capacity of existing systems and workforces in the areas of sexual health and BBV service delivery, research, and surveillance;
- Information dissemination through the development of a comprehensive clearinghouse of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexual Health initiatives including surveillance and research.

The program works closely with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, its State and Territory based Affiliate organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to make a difference to the health of indigenous communities.

2010 saw the release of the fourth annual Bloodborne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Surveillance and Evaluation Report. In addition, two major studies began in Queensland: one of HBV in the Torres Strait Islands and the other aiming to recruit 300 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who inject drugs. During 2010, Australia’s largest randomised cluster trial ever to be conducted in Aboriginal health, named STRIVE, completed baseline prevalence studies for bacterial STI in 67 remote communities and first-year sites were initiated to the intervention arm. Work progressed through 2010 in SHAMMER, a quality improvement project in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in NSW; REACCH, a Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health, and GOANNA, a national survey of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people regarding STI and BBV knowledge risk behaviour and health service access (see Research Programs). The program was also awarded an NHMRC Project Grant to trial the use, effectiveness and feasibility of STI point of care tests in remote Aboriginal communities.

The Public Health Interventions Research Group

The Public Health Interventions Research Group undertakes a diverse range of projects that focus on the evaluation of strategies to prevent infectious disease. We collaborate extensively, both within NCHECR and externally, and emphasise research that benefits the health of disadvantaged populations in Australia and the Asia-Pacific Region.

Much of our work also has a strong capacity building component. The group is currently involved in projects related to the control of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, scabies and trachoma. Countries of activity include Australia, Papua Guinea, Indonesia, Cambodia and Fiji.

2010 saw the start of the STRIVE program, in collaboration with Sexual Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Programs. Two new post doctoral fellows joined PHIRG and the group was successful in its bid to host the 2012 International Microbicides Conference. PHIRG was also awarded the contract to develop the new national trachoma unit with SEPPH and ATSI programs; and we undertook a formal collaboration with Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research with Andrew Vallegy being posted in Goroka.

Professor John Kaldor is an NHMRC senior principal research fellow who is committed to the NCHECR’s work in biomedical prevention. Professor Kaldor has been at NCHECR for two decades.
Support for national surveillance committees
Ongoing monitoring of new diagnoses of HIV infection, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia was co-ordinated by the National Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committee during 2010. The role of the Committee is to develop new initiatives in case surveillance, new analyses of surveillance data, standardise surveillance procedures across State and Territory health jurisdictions and facilitate feedback of surveillance outputs. The Communicable Diseases Network Australia, of which the NBBV&STI Surveillance Committee is a sub-committee, commenced a review of its membership and the role of its sub-committees to ensure that CDNA’s objectives are informed by the best advice and that the work of the sub-committees reflects current CDNA priorities.

HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report
Detailed analyses and interpretations of national surveillance data on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections are published in "HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report 2010.

Status: Ongoing
Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections.
Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Australian HIV Surveillance Report
The Australian HIV Surveillance Report provides quarterly updates on the number of new diagnoses of HIV infection and estimates of HIV incidence and prevalence through a network of sexual health clinics.

Status: Ongoing. The Australian HIV Surveillance Report, in its current format, has been published each quarter from July 1990.
Personnel: Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton
Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance
Bloodborne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: Surveillance Report 2010

While the pattern of diagnosis of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is reported in the Annual Surveillance Report, more detailed analyses and interpretations of national surveillance data for these infections were published separately in a single comprehensive report, for use by organisations and individuals with an interest in the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Status: Ongoing. The fourth issue of Bloodborne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: Surveillance Report 2010 was released in October 2010. Personnel: James Ward, Simon Graham, Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections. Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Merging HIV and AIDS registries

Australian Red Cross Blood Bank Surveillance

Disease surveillance

Surveillance for HIV

Monitoring cases of AIDS
The past pattern of HIV transmission, the pattern of illness associated with advanced HIV immunodeficiency and the impact of antiretroviral treatment on the pattern of illness is monitored through national AIDS surveillance. Status: Ongoing. A case for denotification of AIDS has been made by the national bloodborne viral and STI surveillance committee. Until AIDS is denotified its monitoring is ongoing. Personnel: Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections. Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Monitoring diagnosis of newly acquired HIV infection
The pattern of HIV transmission is monitored through national surveillance for newly diagnosed HIV infection. Status: Ongoing. Monitoring long-term outcome of newly acquired HIV infection
The long-term outcome of HIV infection is monitored among cases with a known date of HIV acquisition. Status: Ongoing Monitoring perinatal exposure to HIV
The extent and outcome of perinatal exposure to HIV in Australia is monitored to indicate the rate of and risk factors for mother-to-child HIV transmission, the impact of interventions for reducing the risk of perinatal HIV transmission and HIV prevalence among women of childbearing age. Status: Ongoing Personnel: Ann McDonald Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections. Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Monitoring HIV transmission through specialised tests for incident HIV infection
Specialised tests for diagnosing incident HIV infection are evaluated by comparison with the results of national surveillance for newly acquired HIV infection. Status: Ongoing Personnel: Ann McDonald Collaborators: NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV; State and Territory health authorities; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections. Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health
Surveillance for viral hepatitis

Monitoring cases of newly diagnosed viral hepatitis

The pattern of transmission of viral hepatitis is monitored through national surveillance for newly diagnosed hepatitis B and hepatitis C infection, and newly acquired infections notified to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System. Information on exposure category and country of birth for cases of newly acquired hepatitis B and C notifications is also obtained through NNDSS.

Status: Ongoing
Personnel: Melanie Middleton, Libby Topp, Lisa Maher
Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Young Women's Reproductive Health Study

This is a nationally representative survey of young women designed to obtain population-based information on human papillomavirus vaccination coverage, prevalence of genital warts and genital Chlamydia and other issues pertinent to young women's reproductive health such as pregnancy and contraception.

Status: 2010 protocol developed
Personnel: Bette Liu, John Kaldor, Basil Donovan, Julia Brotherton, Marion Saville
Collaborators: Victorian Cytology Service; National HPV Vaccination Register
Funding: NHMRC Program Grant, Victorian Cytology Service
Located: Public Health Interventions Research Group

Modelling and economic evaluation of hepatitis C epidemic mitigation strategies in Australia

Status: Ongoing
Funding: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
Personnel: David Wilson, Rosie Thein, Murray Krafth, Lisa Maher, Greg Dore, John Kaldor, Shamin Kinathil, Pen Reyes, James Jansson
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Epidemiological and economic impact of potential increased hepatitis C treatment uptake in Australia

Status: Report released.
Personnel: David Wilson, Rosie Thein, Greg Dore, M. D. Krahn, Alexander Hoare
Funding: Roche
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Surveillance for sexually transmissible infections

Monitoring HIV prevalence and incidence through sexual health clinics

HIV prevalence and incidence is monitored among people seen at sexual health clinics who are voluntarily tested for HIV antibody as part of their clinical care.

Status: Ongoing
Personnel: Melanie Middleton, Greg Dore
Collaborator: Australia and New Zealand Liver Transplant Register
Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Modelling and validating a scoring tool for identifying people who inject drugs at highest risk of hepatitis C virus infection

Status: To be submitted (after Addiction and JID decisions)
Personnel: Handan Wand, Jenny Iversen, David Wilson, Libby Topp, Lisa Maher
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health
Chronic hepatitis B prevalence in Australia among at-risk populations: results from a systematic review and meta-analysis

**Status:** Paper produced.

**Personnel:** Keira Robinson, Rosie Thein, B. Cowie, Lisa Maher, Greg Dore, John Kaldor, David Wilson

**Location:** Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Modelling and impact of hepatitis C treatment in prisons

**Status:** model developed

**Personnel:** James Fetherston, David Wilson, Tony Butler

**Location:** Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

**Syphilis**

Developing the National Gay Men’s Syphilis Action Plan

**Status:** Main project completed with the dissemination of the Phase A final report in 2009.

**Personnel:** David Wilson, Garrett Prestage, Basil Donovan, Richard Gray, Alex Hoare, Ian Down, Jack Bradley

**Funding:** NSW Health

**Location:** Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

**Chlamydia**

Australian Collaboration on Chlamydia Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance (ACCESS).

Chlamydia is the most commonly notified disease in Australia and is an important cause of pelvic inflammatory disease and tubal infertility in women. Chlamydia notifications have been increasing for over a decade. However, the basis of the increase is not well understood. The ACCESS program determines chlamydia testing and positivity rates in priority populations nationally as well as maintaining an ongoing surveillance system. Populations of interest include young heterosexuals, men who have sex with men, sex workers, pregnant women, and Indigenous people. The program involves national collaborative networks of selected services including sexual health clinics, antenatal clinics, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, family planning clinics, general practices and laboratories.

**Status:** The first reports were published in 2009 with others in preparation

**Personnel:** Basil Donovan, Rebecca Guy, John Kaldor, Andrew Grulich, Neil Franklin, Hammad Ali, James Ward, Handan Wand

**Collaborators:** Margaret Hellard, Caroline Van Gemert, Mark Stoovel, Isabel Bergeri, Jane Goller, Fabian Kong, Anna Bowring, Elizabeth Sullivan, Zheuyang Li, Wayne Dimech, Marcus Chen, Christopher Fairley, Catherine O’Connor, Bridget Dickson, Lewis Marshall, Tony Merritt, Jane Hocking, Marie Protta, Phyllis Lau, Douglas Boyle, Helena Britt, Clare Heal, Tom Brett, Caroline Harvey, Robyn Wardle, Kathy McNamee, Lynne Jordan, Anne Stephens, Christine Read, Deborah Bateson, Deborah Wright, Mick Adams, Mark Saunders, Sophie Couzos, Jenny Hunt, Peter Waples-Crowe, David Scrimgeour, Sid Williams, Ana Herceg, Liz Moore, Michael Beckmann, Julie MacPhail, Marian Currie, Zena Robinson, Trent Miller, Megan Halliday, Paul Coldwater

**Funding:** Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing Chlamydia Pilot Program

**Location:** Sexual Health Program; co-located Public Health Interventions Research Group

Surveillance of lymphogranuloma venereum Chlamydia trachomatis types among men who have sex with men

Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) is caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) serovars L1-L3. These serovars display tropism for the lymphatic system and are clinically much more severe than other chlamydia serovars. Since 2004, there has been a resurgence of LGV proctitis affecting men who have sex with men with HIV infection in the United Kingdom, Western Europe and the North America. The pattern of infection in Australia has not yet been described. The prevalence, clinical spectrum and risk factors of LGV among men who have sex with men attending the Melbourne and Sydney Sexual Health Centres, and the HIM/PH cohorts were investigated.
LCV was found to be rare and always associated with symptoms.

**Status**: The Final report was published in 2010

**Personnel**: Basil Donovan

**Collaborators**: Sepehr Tabrizi, Jimmy Twin, Susanne Garland, Christopher Fairley, William Rawlinson

**Funding**: NHMRC Project Grant

**Located**: Sexual Health Program

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**Eco-pathogenomics of chlamydial infection of the human reproductive tract**

Sub-project Investigating the cellular dynamics of Chlamydia infection

**Status**: In vivo data and preliminary in vitro data collected

**Personnel**: J. Ravel, A. Maurelli, G. Myers, David Wilson, Patrik Bavoil, Roger Rank

**Funding**: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

**Location**: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

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**Using CD4 counts at diagnosis to estimate incidence**

**Status**: Ongoing

**Personnel**: Fred Wu, Handan Wand, Ann McDonald, David Wilson

**Funding**: Australian Research Council

**Location**: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

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**HIV treatment failure, therapeutic pathways, and clinical outcomes: understanding the present and planning for the future**

**Status**: Ongoing

**Personnel**: David Wilson, Pen Reyes, Rosie Thein, Lei Zhang

**Funding**: NAPWA, NHMRC

**Location**: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

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**Genital warts**

Long-term surveillance of genital warts through Australian sexual health services.

A national program of human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination of Australian teenage girls and young women requires systems that can provide long-term surveillance for trends in HPV-related diseases. Genital warts should only be prevented by quadrivalent vaccine that also covers HPV types 6 and 11. We established a network for enhanced sentinel surveillance for genital warts in eight larger sexual health clinics across Australia.

**Status**: Data collection ongoing

**Personnel**: Basil Donovan, David Regan, Andrew Grulich, Hammad Ali, Handan Wand, Rebecca Guy, Neil Franklin

**Collaborators**: Christopher Fairley, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne, and Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

**Funding**: CSL Biotherapies Ltd

**Located**: Sexual Health Program

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**Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease**

**Analyses of the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Registry**

Biostatistical and epidemiological advice and support is provided for the analysis and interpretation of Registry data.

**Status**: Ongoing

**Personnel**: Handan Wand

**Collaborator**: The Australia National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Registry

**Located**: Biostatistics and Databases Program

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**Behavioural surveillance**

**The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS)**

The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS) forms the basis of Australia's sentinel surveillance of HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV) prevalence and behaviour indices of risk among people who inject drugs (PWID). Since 1995, all clients attending selected Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) sites during a specified one to two week period are asked to complete a brief self administered questionnaire and to provide a capillary blood sample for HIV and hepatitis C antibody testing. Demographic and behavioural data captured include injecting and sexual behaviour, blood borne virus testing, drug treatment and needle and syringe acquisition. A National Data Report, summarising National and State/Territory data is produced by VHEPP on an annual basis.

**Status**: Ongoing

**Personnel**: Jenny Herens, Libby Topp, Lisa Maher

**Collaborators**: Australian State and Territory health authorities; the Collaboration of Australian Needle and Syringe Programs; St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research (AMAR) and NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV at St Vincent's Hospital; Association for Prevention and Harm Reduction Programs Australia (ANEX); Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users' League (AIVL), National Drug Research Institute (NDRI), Drug and Alcohol Services, St Vincent's Hospital.

**Funding**: Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

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**Review of the history and methodology of the Australian behavioural surveillance and its implications for policy and prevention (Australian Gay Community Periodic Surveys)**

Repeated cross-sectional surveys of gay-community attached men; review of the history, methodology, behavioural trends and the use of data for policy development.

**Status**: In 2010, we reviewed the history and methodology of the Australian behavioural surveys, compiled the review of behavioural trends and their use in policy development. Analyses were completed in 2010.
Morbidity in people with hepatitis B and C in New South Wales:
This is a population-based data linkage study. Notification records for cases of hepatitis B and/or hepatitis C in New South Wales have been linked to their hospital, death, and HIV/AIDS records by The Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL). In 2010, the relative impact of hepatitis B and HIV co-infection on morbidity in people with HCV was examined. HIV or HBV co-infection significantly increased the rates of all cause, illicit drug, and especially liver related hospital admissions. However, the low prevalence of co-infection in Australians with HCV meant that the excess burden at a population-level was minimal. A comparison of hospitalisation rates between people notified with HBV and HCV revealed contrasting trends over time. The burden of non alcoholic liver disease (cirrhosis) and all cause morbidity was two-fold higher in the HCV compared with the HBV cohort, whilst the reverse was true for liver cancer. In addition, hospitalisation rates for non alcoholic liver disease increased by 9% in the HCV cohort but decreased by 14% in the HBV cohort (P < 0.001), suggesting an impact of new treatments on liver-related morbidity in patients with HBV.
Personnel: Heather Gidding, Janaki Amin, Matthew Law, Greg Dore
Collaborators: New South Wales Health, Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL)
Funding: University of New South Wales
Located: Biostatistics and Databases Program

Clinical Service Delivery for HIV Positive People in Australia
Status: Ongoing
Personnel: Kylie Mallitt, David Wilson, Handan Wand
Funding: Australian Research Council (ARC)
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Mapping HIV outcomes in Australia
Status: Report released
Personnel: David Wilson, James Jansson, Jo Watson
Funding: National Association of People living With HIV/AIDS (NAPWA)
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Evaluating the epidemiological benefits of needle and syringe programs in Australia
Status: ongoing
Funding: Department of Health and Ageing, UNAIDS
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Using mathematical models to assess the impact of interventions to reduce sexually transmitted infections in Australia
Status: ongoing
Personnel: Jane Hocking, David Regan, David Wilson, David Philp, Anthony Smith, Rob Carter, Ben Hui
Funding: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Modelling the interaction between sexually transmitted infections and HIV transmission to inform public health policy
Status: A review of STI, IDU, and HIV in Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders is being conducted, and a model of HIV and STI transmission in Aboriginal populations is being developed
Personnel: David Wilson, Richard Gray, James Ward, Andrew Grulich, Basil Donovan, Sheila Matete- Owiti, Gordana Popovic
Funding: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Reviews, analyses and mathematical modelling

Systematic review and meta-analyses of HIV comorbid conditions
Status: ongoing
Personnel: David Wilson, Jo Watson, James Jansson, Fakhru1 Islam, Fred Wu
Funding: Australian Research Council (ARC), National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA)
Located: Health Informatics and Evaluation Program

Modelling HIV in NSW
Status: Study completed
Personnel: David Wilson, Garrett Prestage, Richard Gray, Ian Down, Alex Hoare, Haris Ghaus, Jack Bradley
Funding: NSW Health
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Modelling HIV epidemics in South Australia
Status: Complete
Personnel: David Wilson, Kel Heymer, Alex Hoare
Funding: South Australia Health
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

AIDS (NAPWA)
National Association of People Living with HIV/
Australian Research Council (ARC),
Jansson, Fakhrul Islam, Fred Wu
David Wilson, Jo Watson, James
Personnel:
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Linkage studies

Modelling HIV outcomes in Australia
Status: Report released
Personnel: David Wilson, James Jansson, Jo Watson
Funding: National Association of People living With HIV/AIDS (NAPWA)
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Mortality in people with hepatitis B and C in New South Wales:
This is a population-based data linkage study. Notification records for cases of hepatitis B and/or hepatitis C in New South Wales have been linked to their hospital, death, and HIV/AIDS records by The Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL). In 2010, the relative impact of hepatitis B and HIV co-infection on mortality in people with HCV was examined. HIV or HBV co-infection significantly increased the rates of all cause, illicit drug, and especially liver related hospital admissions. However, the low prevalence of co-infection in Australians with HCV meant that the excess burden at a population-level was minimal. A comparison of hospitalisation rates between people notified with HBV and HCV revealed contrasting trends over time. The burden of non alcoholic liver disease (cirrhosis) and all cause morbidity was two-fold higher in the HCV compared with the HBV cohort, whilst the reverse was true for liver cancer. In addition, hospitalisation rates for non alcoholic liver disease increased by 9% in the HCV cohort but decreased by 14% in the HBV cohort (P < 0.001), suggesting an impact of new treatments on liver-related morbidity in patients with HBV.
Personnel: Heather Gidding, Janaki Amin, Matthew Law, Greg Dore
Collaborators: New South Wales Health, Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL)
Funding: University of New South Wales
Located: Biostatistics and Databases Program

Clinical Service Delivery for HIV Positive People in Australia
Status: Ongoing
Personnel: Kylie Mallitt, David Wilson, Handan Wand
Funding: Australian Research Council (ARC)
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Mapping HIV outcomes in Australia
Status: Report released
Personnel: David Wilson, James Jansson, Jo Watson
Funding: National Association of People living With HIV/AIDS (NAPWA)
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Evaluating the epidemiological benefits of needle and syringe programs in Australia
Status: ongoing
Funding: Department of Health and Ageing, UNAIDS
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Using mathematical models to assess the impact of interventions to reduce sexually transmitted infections in Australia
Status: ongoing
Personnel: Jane Hocking, David Regan, David Wilson, David Philp, Anthony Smith, Rob Carter, Ben Hui
Funding: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Modelling the interaction between sexually transmitted infections and HIV transmission to inform public health policy
Status: A review of STI, IDU, and HIV in Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders is being conducted, and a model of HIV and STI transmission in Aboriginal populations is being developed
Personnel: David Wilson, Richard Gray, James Ward, Andrew Grulich, Basil Donovan, Sheila Matete-Owiti, Gordana Popovic
Funding: National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Reviews, analyses and mathematical modelling

Systematic review and meta-analyses of HIV comorbid conditions
Status: ongoing
Personnel: David Wilson, Jo Watson, James Jansson, Fakhru1 Islam, Fred Wu
Funding: Australian Research Council (ARC), National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA)
HIV: antiretroviral therapy

Randomised trial in primary HIV infection looking at three forms of intervention (SPARTAC)

SPARTAC (short pulse antiretroviral treatment at seroconversion) looks at the effect on CD4 T-cells of three interventions at primary HIV infection, either treating with antiretroviral therapy for 12 or 48 weeks or not treating at all until CD4 declines to <350 cells.

**Status:** Enrolment ceased in June 2007 by which time 37 patients had been screened. 31 patients continue to be followed up with last visits scheduled for December 2010

**Personnel:** Anthony Kelleher, Pat Grey

**Collaborators:** Medical Research Council (UK); Jonathon Weber, Sarah Fidler, Imperial College; Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House Medical Practice; Robert McFarlane, East Sydney Doctors; Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; Dr Nick Doong, Burwood; Professor David Cooper, St Vincent’s Hospital; Mark Kelly, AIDS Medical Unit; Norman Roth, Prahran Market Clinic; Dr BK Tee, The Centre Clinic; Richard Moore, Carlton Clinic; Philip Cunningham, Kate McGhie, Julie Yeung, St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** Wellcome Trust

**Location:** Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

**PHIDISA Ia**


**Status:** Recruitment opened January 2004.

**Sites:** 6 military medical sites in Republic of South Africa

**Enrolled/target:** 8,439/unlimited

**Personnel:** Sean Emery

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; US Department of Defense; South African National Defence Force

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

**PHIDISA II**

A randomised, open-label 2x2 factorial study to compare the safety and efficacy of different combination antiretroviral therapy regimens in treatment-naïve patients with advanced HIV disease and/or CD4+ cell counts < 200 cells/µL.

**Status:** Completed March 2009, published JID 2010.

**Sites:** 6 military medical sites in Republic of South Africa

**Enrolled/target:** 1,771/2,800

**Personnel:** Sean Emery

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; US Department of Defense; South African National Defence Force

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

**ALTAIR**

A randomised open-label study comparing the safety and efficacy of three different combination antiretroviral regimens as initial therapy for HIV infection.

**Status:** Recruitment January 2007 to February 2008, week 48 data lead to inclusion of week 144 follow-up visit.

**Sites:** 37 sites in 15 countries

**Enrolled/target:** 329/300
ALTAR MRS Sub-study
A randomised open-label study comparing the safety and efficacy of three different combination antiretroviral regimens as initial therapy for HIV infection: CNS metabolite and cognitive impairment.
Status: Recruitment April 2007 to February 2011, week 144 follow-up visit.
Sites: 4 sites in 4 countries
Enrolled/target: 30/300
Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Maria Arriaga, Carlo Dazo, Hila Haskelberg, Kathy Petoumenos, Steve Kerr
Funding: UNSW
Location: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

ALTAR Bone biomarker Sub-study
An analysis of vitamin D and biomarkers related to bone disease in patients recruited and followed in the ALTAR study.
Status: Analysis of blood stored samples collected at week 0, 12, 24, 48 and 96 within the ALTAR study.
Sites: All sites participating in the main ALTAR study
Target: All patient storage samples from participants completing week 96.
Personnel: Hila Haskelberg, Jenny Hoy, Rebekah Puls, Janaki Amin, Paddy Mailton, Sean Emery
Funding: UNSW
Location: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

ALTAR Renal Sub-study
A randomised open-label study comparing the safety and efficacy of three different combination antiretroviral regimens as initial therapy for HIV infection: analysis of renal outcomes.
Status: Recruitment April 2007 to February 2011, week 144 follow-up visit.
Sites: All sites participating in the main ALTAR study
Enrolled/target: All participant storage samples from participants completing week 96.
Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Maria Arriaga, Carlo Dazo, Hila Haskelberg, Paul Fahey, Janaki Amin, Sean Emery, Christoph Boesecke
Funding: UNSW
Location: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

PINT
A study of the effects of the integrase inhibitor, raltegravir, on viral reservoirs in those treated at primary HIV infection compared to those treated during chronic infection.
Status: The trial was fully enrolled at 16 patients. All patients completed the initial phase of trial (52 weeks) and 15 remain in two-year extension phase which will complete mid 2011.
Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Linda Celglo, Pat Grey, Kristen Koelsch Christoph Boesecke, Sean Emery, Wendy Lee, Janaki Amin, David Cooper
Collaborators: Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic, Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House Private Practice; Robert McFarlane, 407 Doctors; John Zaunders, Kat Marks, Kate McChie, Julie Yeung, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, John Murray, School of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, UNSW
Funding: Merck & Co Inc
Co-located: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program
Pathogenesis Program

ENCORE1
A randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial to determine the safety and efficacy of reduced dose efavirenz (400mg qd) versus standard dose efavirenz (600mg qd) as part of combination therapy in treatment naive individuals with HIV infection.
Status: in development.
Sites: approximately 50
Target: approximately 700
Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Enmoore Lin, Jessica Taylor, Carlo Dazo, Natalie Espinosa, Janaki Amin
Funding: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Location: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

ENCORE1 CNS Sub-study
A randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial to determine the safety and efficacy of reduced dose efavirenz (400mg qd) versus standard dose efavirenz (600mg qd) as part of combination therapy in treatment naive individuals with HIV infection: EFV central nervous system exposure sub-study.
Status: in development.
Sites: 6 sites in 4 countries
Target: approximately 40
Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Enmoore Lin, Jessica Taylor, Carlo Dazo, Natalie Espinosa, Janaki Amin
Funding: UNSW
Location: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

ENCORE1 Intensive Pharmacokinetics Sub-study
A randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial to determine the safety and efficacy of reduced dose efavirenz (400mg qd) versus standard dose efavirenz (600mg qd) as part of combination therapy in treatment naive individuals with HIV infection: intensive 24 hour pharmacokinetic analysis.
Status: in development.
Sites: 4 sites in 4 countries
Target: approximately 40
Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Enmoore Lin, Jessica Taylor, Carlo Dazo, Natalie Espinosa, Janaki Amin
Funding: UNSW
Location: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

ENCORE2
Pharmacokinetics of plasma lamivudine (3TC), and its active intracellular anabolite 3TC-triphosphate over a 24 hour dosing interval following administration of 3TC 300 mg and 150 mg once daily to HIV-negative healthy volunteers.
Status: recruitment and follow-up completed 2010, data analyses scheduled for end 2010.
Sites: one, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, London, United Kingdom
Target: 24 HIV-1-negative subjects
Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Janaki Amin, Enmoore Lin, Jessica Taylor, Carlo Dazo, Natalie Espinosa
Funding: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Location: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

ENCORE3
Pharmacokinetics of plasma lopinavir/ritonavir following the administration of 400/100 mg, 200/150 mg, and 200/50 mg twice daily in HIV negative volunteers.
Status: recruitment and follow-up completed 2009, data analyses completed and publication 2010.
Sites: one, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, London, United Kingdom
Target: 24 HIV-1-negative subjects
Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Janaki Amin, Enmoore Lin, Jessica Taylor, Carlo Dazo, Natalie Espinosa
Funding: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Location: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

SECOND-LINE
A randomised open-label study comparing the safety and efficacy of raltegravir boosted lopinavir and 2-3N(t)RTI backbone versus raltegravir boosted lopinavir and raltegravir in participants virologically failing first-line...
To continue unblinded safety assessments.

**Purpose of extended follow-up:** To continue unblinded safety assessments.

**Study design:** An open-label randomised multicentre trial to examine the safety and efficacy of commencing combination antiretroviral therapy at a CD4+ cell count of > 500 cells/mm³ versus commencing at a CD4+ cell count of < 350 cells/mm³. This initiative includes several substantial substudies (see below for details) designed to determine the effects of treatment with ART on neurological manifestations of HIV disease, cardiovascular complications, bone mineral metabolism, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and abbreviated forms of informed consent documentation.

**Status:** Recruitment opened April 2009. To date 845/4000 enrolled, with 139 in the Sydney region.

**Sites:** 75 in the pilot phase with 15 sites in the Sydney region (sites coordinated by NCHECR), to be expanded in the definitive phase (October 2010) with a further 33 sites in the Sydney Region.

**Target:** Pilot phase enrolment 1200 patients with 220 from sites coordinated by NCHECR; enrolment in the definitive phase will be 4000 (with approximately 1000 from sites coordinated by NCHECR)

**Personnel:** Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, Megan Evans, Simone Jacoby, Sally Hough, Sean Emery, Lara Cassar

**Funding:** Division of AIDS (DAIDS), The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH); Australian National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MR), Agence Nationale de Recherches sur le SIDA et les Hépatites Virales (ANRS, France); Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF, Germany); NEAT - European AIDS Treatment Network; Department of Bioethics, The Clinical Center, NIH; Division of Clinical Research, NIAID, NIH; National Cancer Institute (NCI), NIH; National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), NIH; National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), NIH; National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), NIH; National Institute for Arthritis and Multiple Sclerosis (NIAMS), NIH

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

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**SECOND-LINE Body Composition substudy**

To determine the difference in mean limb fat changes and BMD changes at the proximal femur as measured by DXA scan between the 2 study arms in a sub-set of the SECOND-LINE cohort.

**Status:** Open to enrolment in all sites

**Sites:** 46

**Target:** 200

**Personnel:** Mark Boyd, Alii Humphries, Natalie Sparis, Paddy Mallon, Jennifer Hoy, Waldo Belloso, Samuel Ferret

**Funding:** UNSW, Merck, Abbott, amfAR

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

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**ART intensification with raltegravir and hyper-immune bovine colostrum** (CORAL)

A randomised, double-blind, placebo controlled multi-centre study to measure the effect on CD4+ outcomes of combination antiretroviral therapy intensification with or without passive immunotherapy to reduce immune activation in HIV-infected individuals with persistent CD4+ T-cell count <350 cells/µL despite prolonged HIV plasma viremia <50 copies/mL for at least 12 months on combination antiretroviral therapy.

**Status:** Analysis completed. All sites closed August 2010. Manuscript in preparation.

**Sites:** 20 Australian sites

**Enrolled/target:** 75/72

**Personnel:** Helen Byakwaga, Hila Haskelberg, Kymme Courtenay-Vega, Janaki Amin, Mark Boyd, Sean Emery

**Funding:** UNSW

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

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**Stalwart**

A randomised, open-label, phase II, international study of sc IL-2 with and without concomitant antiretroviral therapy in patients with HIV-I infection and CD4+ cell counts >300 cells/µL. Study of aldesleukin with and without ART on neurological manifestations of HIV disease, cardiovascular complications, bone mineral metabolism, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and abbreviated forms of informed consent documentation.

**Status:** Recruitment opened April 2009. To date 908/4000 enrolled, with 154 in the Sydney region.

**Sites:** 100 in the pilot phase with 17 sites in the Sydney region (sites coordinated by NCHECR),

**Extended follow-up phase** began 01 March 2009 for a further two-year period until 28 Feb 2011

**Sites:** 13

**Enrolled/target:** 267 patients (worldwide) with an equal allocation among the three study groups. All participants randomised into main study are eligible for the extended follow-up. (5 sites in Australia, 3 sites in Thailand, 6 sites in Argentina)

**Personnel:** Cate Carey, David Courtney-Rodgers

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

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Informed Consent Substudy: A substudy of Strategic Timing of AntiRetroviral Treatment (START)

This substudy is evaluating understanding of study information and satisfaction with the consent process among research participants of the START protocol, after receiving information from one of two different types of consent form: a standard or a concise consent.

**Status:** Recruitment opened April 2009. To date 845/4000 enrolled, with 139 in the Sydney region.

**Sites:** 75 in the pilot phase with 15 sites in the Sydney region (sites coordinated by NCHECR), to be expanded in the definitive phase (October 2010) with a further 17 sites in the Sydney Region (in Argentina, Thailand, Israel, Mexico, Chile, South Africa, Nigeria, India and Australia).

**Target:** n=2000

**Personnel:** Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, Megan Evans, Simone Jacoby, Sally Hough, Sean Emery, Lara Cassar

**Funding:** DAIDS, NIH/NCI, ANRS, France; BMBF, Germany; NEAT - European AIDS Treatment Network, Department of Bioethics, The Clinical Center, NIH

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program
Genomics: A sub-study of Strategic Timing of AntiRetroviral Treatment (START)
The purpose of this sub-study is to obtain a whole blood sample from which DNA will be extracted to study validated (present and future) genetic variants that determine the risk of the various primary and secondary outcomes assessed in START.

**Status:** Recruitment opened April 2009. To date 666/4000 enrolled, with 91 in the Sydney region.

**Sites:** as many of the START sites as possible to be involved, to date 78 sites are registered with 13 in the Sydney region.

**Target:** as many of the overall cohort of 4000 START patients as possible.

**Personnel:** Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, Megan Evans, Simone Jacoby, Sally Hough, Sean Emery, Lara Cassar

**Funding:** DAIDS; NHMRC; ANRS, France; BMBF, Germany; NEAT - European AIDS Treatment Network and NHLBI, NIH

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

Neurology: A sub-study of Strategic Timing of AntiRetroviral Treatment (START)
The purpose of the sub-study is to determine whether immediate initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART) in ART-naïve persons with a CD4+ count > 500 cells/mm³ is superior, with respect to neurocognitive function, compared to deferring ART initiation until CD4+ counts decline to 350 cells/mm³.

**Status:** Recruitment opened January 2010. To date 214/600 enrolled, with 78 in the Sydney region.

**Sites:** 30 in the pilot phase (6 sites in Sydney region), expanding to a total of 33 sites

**Target:** n=300

**Personnel:** Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, Megan Evans, Simone Jacoby, Sally Hough, Sean Emery, Lara Cassar

**Funding:** DAIDS; NHMRC; ANRS, France; BMBF, Germany; NEAT - European AIDS Treatment Network; Division of Clinical Research, NIAID, NIH

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

Arterial Elasticity: A sub-study of Strategic Timing of AntiRetroviral Treatment (START)
The arterial elasticity sub-study will determine if early initiation of ART is superior to deferred ART in increasing large artery elasticity (LAE) and small artery elasticity (SAE) (i.e., in reducing arterial stiffness) as measured by pulse wave tonometry.

**Status:** Recruitment opened September 2009. To date 73/300 enrolled, with 41 in the Sydney region.

**Sites:** 17 sites in the pilot phase (6 sites in Sydney region), expanding to 21 sites, with one additional site in Sydney region (in India), and 6 sites in Australia, Thailand and Argentina contributing patients utilising tonometers located at other sites in the same city

**Target:** n=300

**Personnel:** Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, Megan Evans, Simone Jacoby, Sally Hough, Sean Emery, Lara Cassar

**Funding:** DAIDS; NHMRC; ANRS, France; BMBF, Germany; NEAT - European AIDS Treatment Network and NHLBI, NIH

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

Pulmonary Sub-study: A sub-study of Strategic Timing of AntiRetroviral Treatment (START)
The pulmonary sub-study will determine if early initiation of ART is superior to deferred ART in with regards to pulmonary function as assessed by annual spirometry and respiratory health questionnaire.

**Status:** Recruitment opened September 2009. To date 78/1000 enrolled, with 4 in the Sydney region.

**Sites:** 45 in the pilot phase with 7 sites in the Sydney region, a further 40 sites will be added for the definitive phase including another 16 sites from the Sydney region.

**Target:** n=1000

**Personnel:** Cate Carey, Megan Evans, Simone Jacoby, Sally Hough, Sean Emery, Sarah Pett, Lara Cassar

**Funding:** DAIDS; NHMRC; ANRS, France; BMBF, Germany; NEAT - European AIDS Treatment Network and NHLBI, NIH

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

Bone Mineral Density: A sub-study of Strategic Timing of AntiRetroviral Treatment (START)
The bone mineral density sub-study will determine if early initiation of ART is superior to deferred ART in with regards to bone health as measured by annual bone mineral density.

**Status:** Recruitment not yet open, protocol released November 2010.

**Sites:** 46 with 19 sites in Sydney region (includes pilot sites that are already open and definitive phase sites)

**Target:** n=400

**Personnel:** Simone Jacoby, Megan Evans, Sally Hough, Sean Emery, Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, Lara Cassar

**Funding:** DAIDS; NHMRC; ANRS, France; BMBF, Germany; NEAT - European AIDS Treatment Network and The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, NIH

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

STEAL HLA Sub-study
An analysis of HLA-A, HLA-B and HLA-C super-types related to cardiovascular disease and body composition in patients recruited and followed in the STEAL study.

**Status:** Analysis of stored blood samples

**Sites:** All that participated in the main STEAL study and collected storage samples

**Target:** All participant storage samples collected at week 0, 12, 24 and 48

**Personnel:** Allison Humphries, Sean Emery, Janaki Amin, David Cooper, Damien Cordery

**Funding:** NCHECR, UNSW

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

STEAL Body Composition Sub-study
An analysis of predictors of body composition changes in patients recruited and followed in the STEAL study.

**Status:** Analysis being conducted on previously collected data.

**Sites:** All that participated in the main STEAL study and had a DEXA scan completed at baseline

**Target:** All participants’ DEXA scans completed at week 0, 48, and 96

**Personnel:** Allison Humphries, Sean Emery, Janaki Amin, David Cooper, Mark Bloch

**Funding:** NCHECR, UNSW

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

STEAL Bone biomarker Sub-study
An analysis of biomarkers related to bone disease in patients recruited and followed in the STEAL study.

**Status:** Analysis of stored blood samples

**Sites:** All that participated in the main STEAL study and collected storage samples

**Target:** All participants’ storage samples collected at week 0, 12, 24, 48, 72 and 96

**Personnel:** Hila Haskelberg, Sean Emery, Andrew Carr, Jennifer Hoy, Janaki Amin, Peter Ebeling

**Funding:** NCHECR, UNSW and Dept Immunology, St Vincent’s Hospital

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program
FLU002
An International Observational Study to Characterize Adults with Influenza A – Pandemic H1N1 (H1N1v) INSIGHT H1N1v Outpatient Study (FLU 002)
Status: vs. 2. 0 06-Nov-2009, open at sites with community transmission of H1N1
Sites: 75 sites globally; in Sydney region: 22 sites (in Thailand, Argentina, Chile and Australia)
Target: 1045/5000; enrolment in Sydney region n=343
Personnel: Sarah Pett, Sean Emery, Rose Robson, Lara Cassar
Funding: NIAID
Location: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

SPARTA
A randomised, open-label, cross-over study to examine the pharmacokinetics and short-term safety and efficacy of two dosing strategies of raltegravir versus atazanavir in HIV-infected patients.
Status: Recruitment opened July 2009; 48- week follow up will finish April 2011
Sites: two
Target: 24
Personnel: Dianne Carey
Funding: Tibotec
Location: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

FLU003
An International Observational Study to Characterize Adults Who Are Hospitalized with Complications of Influenza A – Pandemic H1N1 (H1N1v) INSIGHT H1N1v Hospitalization Study (FLU 003)
Status: vs. 1. 0 18-Aug-2009, open at sites with community transmission of H1N1
Sites: 88 globally; 18 in Sydney region (in Thailand, Argentina, Chile, Hong Kong and Australia)
Target: 313/1600; total enrolment; enrolment in Sydney region n=39
Personnel: Sarah Pett, Sean Emery, Rose Robson, Lara Cassar
Funding: NIAID
Location: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

LASA
A multicenter randomised study to compare the efficacy and safety of lower dose atazanavir/ritonavir (ATV/r 200/100 mg OD) versus standard dose (ATV/r 300/100 mg OD) in combination with 2NRTIs in well virology suppressed HIV-infected adults.
Status: Protocol and documentation being prepared. Site selection concluded, recruitment to commence 2011 Q1
Sites: up to 15 clinical centres in the Thai National Health Service network
Target: 560
Personnel: Sean Emery, Stephen Kerr, Alli Humphries, Jessica Taylor, Wendy Lee
Funding: NCHECR, HIVNAT, Thai NHSO
Location: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

Etravirine + Raltegravir Study
A randomised, open-label, cross-over study to examine the efficacy, safety and pharmacokinetics of two dosing strategies of etravirine plus raltegravir in HIV-infected individuals.
Status: not yet open to recruitment
Sites: two
Target: 24
Personnel: Dianne Carey
Funding: Tibotec
Location: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

MARCH
A randomised, controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of maraviroc as a switch for either nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NtRTIs) or boosted HIV protease inhibitors(r/PI) in HIV infected patients with stable, well-controlled plasma HIV-RNA while taking their first NtRTI + r/PI regimen of combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) – The MARCH study.
Status: Protocol and documentation being prepared. Site selection concluded, recruitment to commence 2011 Q1
Sites: up to 60 clinical centres in the NCHECR

Members of the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program
international network to include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Israel, Mexico, Peru, Spain, UK, Venezuela

**Target:** 560

**Personnel:** Sean Emery, Sarah Pett

**Funding:** ViV HealthCare

**Location:** Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

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The Australian HIV Observational Database (AHOD)

Observational cohort study of patients with HIV. Demographic, clinical and treatment data are aggregated twice each year via electronic data transfer.

**Status:** 3173 patients recruited by 31 March 2010

**Personnel:** Sadaf Maarashi-Pour, Hamish McManus, Stephen Wright, Courtnay Bendall, Kathy Petoumenos, Matthew Law

**Collaborators:** Network of clinical sites (GPs, hospitals and sexual health clinics) throughout Australia

**Funding:** Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) via a US National Institutes of Health grant through the International Epidemiologic Databases Evaluating AIDS collaboration; consortium of pharmaceutical companies

**Located:** Biostatistics and Databases Program

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The Data Collection on the Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drugs Study (D:A:D)

Large, international, collaborative study aimed at assessing the medium to long-term effects of antiretroviral agents.

**Target:** Recruitment of 150 individuals from Thailand in 2008. Study in 2010: 2010 submitted for ethics review in November 2009. Status: Ethics approval for NSW HBV and HCV linkage study (linkage to NSW Central Cancer Registry, Mortality data from Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages and Australian Bureau of Statistics, NSW Admitted Patient Data Collection) was granted from the NSW Population & Health Services Research Ethics Committee and the UNSW HREC during 2009. A probabilistic linkage of NSW Notifiable Diseases Database, Admitted Patient Data Collection, Central Cancer Registry and deaths was completed at the end of 2009. The linkage was carried out by the Centre for Health Record Linkage (ChERL).

**Personnel:** Rosie Thein, Heather Gidding, Janaki Amin, Matthew Law, Greg Dore

**Collaborators:** Kate Ward (NSW Health)

**Funding:** The Cancer Council NSW

**Location:** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

**Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C**

A prospective longitudinal study of natural history and treatment outcomes following response guided treatment of recent hepatitis C infection.

**Status:** submitted for ethics review in November 2010

**Enrollment target:** 120 subjects

**Personnel:** Cail Matthews, Greg Dore, Barbara Yeung, Pip Marks, Jason Grebely, Tanya Applegate

**Collaborators:** Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health; St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney; Royal Prince Alfred Hospital; Kirketon Road Centre; Nepean Hospital; School of Medical Sciences, UNSW; School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, UNSW; The Alfred Hospital; St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne; Royal Melbourne Hospital; Royal Adelaide Hospital; Princess Alexandria Hospital; Royal Perth Hospital and Murdoch University.

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

**Location:** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

Enhancing Treatment of Hepatitis C in Opiate Substitution Settings (ETHOS)

The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR) was awarded an NHMRC Partnership Grant (partner organisations listed below) to address the issue of HCV treatment in the opiate pharmacotherapy setting. The partnership project includes an evaluation of assessment and treatment of HCV in a prospective cohort study – the ETHOS Cohort; patient and provider attitudes and barriers towards the provision of services for assessment and treatment of HCV infection; peer based support as a strategy for enhancing knowledge and uptake of treatment for HCV infection; and cost effectiveness of providing assessment and treatment for HCV infection in the opiate pharmacotherapy setting. The ETHOS cohort aims to examine HCV treatment uptake, treatment response and incidence of reinfection among clients with chronic HCV and a history of injection drug use.

**Status (ETHOS cohort):** Commenced recruitment February 2009 with more than 200 enrolled to date. Target is 500

**Personnel:** Greg Dore, Jason Grebely, Alexa Gillman, Pip Marks, Rosie Thein, Amanda Erratt, Marianne Jauncey, Patrick McGrath, Ineke Shaw

**Collaborators:** National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR), NSW Health Department, Sydney, South West Area Health Service (SSWAHS), Hepatitis NSW and NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA; Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney, Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)

**Funding:** Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, NSW Health Department

**Location:** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

Liver Disease and HIV/HBV Coinfection in the era of HAART (COLD)

A prospective cohort of people with HIV/hepatitis B co-infection to examine the impact of highly active antiretroviral therapy on liver disease progression and provide a means for surveillance of resistance to hepatitis B active agents.

**Status:** Recruitment of 150 individuals completed in Australia and the US in 2004-2006. Cohort expanded to include 47 individuals from Thailand in 2008. Study in final analysis.

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**Viral hepatitis**

Cancer Council STREP Grant

Understanding hepatocellular carcinoma in NSW

**Status:** Ethics approval for NSW HBV and HCV linkage study (linkage to NSW Central Cancer Registry, Mortality data from Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages and Australian Bureau of Statistics, NSW Admitted Patient Data Collection) was granted from the NSW Population & Health Services Research Ethics Committee and the UNSW HREC during 2009. A probabilistic linkage of NSW Notifiable Diseases Database, Admitted Patient Data Collection, Central Cancer Registry and deaths was completed at the end of 2009. The linkage was carried out by the Centre for Health Record Linkage (ChERL).

**Personnel:** Rosie Thein, Heather Gidding, Janaki Amin, Matthew Law, Greg Dore

**Collaborators:** Kate Ward (NSW Health)

**Funding:** The Cancer Council NSW

**Location:** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

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Myocardial infarction, assessment of Antiretroviral and Genetic factors in Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection: MAGNIFICENT

International collaborative project of 17 Observational HIV Cohort Studies to evaluate the contribution of single nucleotide polymorphisms (identified in genome-wide association studies in the general population) and of combination antiretroviral therapy (cART), traditional acute coronary artery disease (CAD) risk factors, and HIV-related factors (CD4+ count, HIV RNA levels) to CAD events in HIV-infected individuals

**Personnel:** Courtney Bendall, Kathy Petoumenos

**Collaborators:** Network of clinical sites (GPs, hospitals and sexual health clinics) throughout Australia; Swiss HIV Cohort Study

**Located:** Biostatistics and Databases Program

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A prospective longitudinal study of natural history and treatment outcomes following response guided treatment of recent hepatitis C infection.

**Status:** submitted for ethics review in November 2010

**Enrollment target:** 120 subjects

**Personnel:** Cail Matthews, Greg Dore, Barbara Yeung, Pip Marks, Jason Grebely, Tanya Applegate

**Collaborators:** Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health; St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney; Royal Prince Alfred Hospital; Kirketon Road Centre; Nepean Hospital; School of Medical Sciences, UNSW; School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, UNSW; The Alfred Hospital; St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne; Royal Melbourne Hospital; Royal Adelaide Hospital; Princess Alexandria Hospital; Royal Perth Hospital and Murdoch University.

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

**Location:** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

Enhancing Treatment of Hepatitis C in Opiate Substitution Settings (ETHOS)

The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR) was awarded an NHMRC Partnership Grant (partner organisations listed below) to address the issue of HCV treatment in the opiate pharmacotherapy setting. The partnership project includes an evaluation of assessment and treatment of HCV in a prospective cohort study – the ETHOS Cohort; patient and provider attitudes and barriers towards the provision of services for assessment and treatment of HCV infection; peer based support as a strategy for enhancing knowledge and uptake of treatment for HCV infection; and cost effectiveness of providing assessment and treatment for HCV infection in the opiate pharmacotherapy setting. The ETHOS cohort aims to examine HCV treatment uptake, treatment response and incidence of reinfection among clients with chronic HCV and a history of injection drug use.

**Status (ETHOS cohort):** Commenced recruitment February 2009 with more than 200 enrolled to date. Target is 500

**Personnel:** Greg Dore, Jason Grebely, Alexa Gillman, Pip Marks, Rosie Thein, Amanda Erratt, Marianne Jauncey, Patrick McGrath, Ineke Shaw

**Collaborators:** National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR), NSW Health Department, Sydney, South West Area Health Service (SSWAHS), Hepatitis NSW and NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA; Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney, Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)

**Funding:** Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, NSW Health Department

**Location:** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

Liver Disease and HIV/HBV Coinfection in the era of HAART (COLD)

A prospective cohort of people with HIV/hepatitis B co-infection to examine the impact of highly active antiretroviral therapy on liver disease progression and provide a means for surveillance of resistance to hepatitis B active agents.

**Status:** Recruitment of 150 individuals completed in Australia and the US in 2004-2006. Cohort expanded to include 47 individuals from Thailand in 2008. Study in final analysis.
Harvesting phylogenetic, virological and immunological data from well-characterised cohorts in Australia, Canada, Europe and the United States. This is the largest consortium of investigators assembled to investigate acute HCV infection. The behavioural, clinical and virological data already collected and the access to stored specimens from this merged study has the potential to provide invaluable insight into the control of HCV infection, including the development of novel HCV therapeutics and vaccine strategies.

**Status:** The first data merger in September 2009

**Enrolled:** 539 participants

**Personnel:** Gregory Dore, Jason Grebely, Lisa Maher

**Collaborators:** University of New South Wales, The Burnet Institute, Université de Montréal, the University of California San Francisco, the University of Amsterdam and Public Health Service of Amsterdam, Harvard, Johns Hopkins

**Location:** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

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**Hepatitis Acceptability and Vaccination Incentives Trial (HAVIT)**

Injecting drug use is the leading exposure category for notifications of newly acquired hepatitis B virus (HBV) in Australia. Funded by the NHMRC, the Hepatitis Acceptability and Vaccination Incentives Trial (HAVIT) is a two-arm open-label randomised controlled trial designed to determine the efficacy of incentive payments to increase HBV vaccination completion in PWID. Secondary endpoints are to evaluate the cost effectiveness of standard care compared to incentive payments as a means of improving HBV vaccination series completion, identify the correlates of immunity and assess hepatitis B knowledge and barriers to immunisation uptake and completion. Using a 3-dose accelerated schedule (0, 7 and 21 days), the trial is being conducted at two inner-Sydney health services which target PWID. To date 414 PWID have been screened with 138 participants eligible and enrolled following baseline serology.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Personnel:** Rachel Deacon, Mofizul Islam, Libby Topp, Lisa Maher

**Collaborators:** Burwood Health Service, Sydney South West Area Health Service; Redfern Drug Health Service/South Sydney Health Service; Discipline of Addiction Medicine, University of Sydney; National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

**Funding:** National Health and Medical Research Council Project Grant

**Location:** Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

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**Data from the highly specialised drugs program**

Summary data of patients receiving antiretroviral treatments funded through the Highly Specialised Drugs Program are received from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, and published in annual and biannual surveillance reports.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Personnel:** Hamish McManus

**Collaborator:** Highly Specialised Drugs Program, Special Access andCoordination Section, Pharmaceutical Access and Quality Branch, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

**Located:** Biostatistics and Databases Program
Sexually transmissible infections

Syphilis: a trial of chemoprophylaxis to prevent syphilis in men who have sex with men with HIV infection

Given the recent resurgence in syphilis cases in the Western World amongst gay men it is now time to test new strategies such as chemoprophylaxis to control syphilis that would be available to any syphilis outbreaks in both developed and developing countries. The primary aim of the trial is to determine whether chemoprophylaxis with 100mg of oral doxycycline daily can reduce the incidence of syphilis in gay men with HIV infection, compared to those receiving placebo. The secondary aims are to compare the clinical safety and incidence of rectal chlamydia and gonorrhoea of HIV-infected gay men and compare the sexual behaviour of HIV-infected gay men treated with the study drug with their baseline behaviour.

Status: Funding application pending

Personnel: Fraser Drummond, John Kaldor, Basil Donovan, Rebecca Guy, Kathy Petoumenos, Andrew Grulich, David Cooper, Garrett Prestage, Matthew Law

Mathematical modelling of human papillomavirus transmission

This research involves the design, implementation and analysis of mathematical models for assessing the health-economic impact of Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, screening and testing policies in Australia.

Status: A general HPV modelling framework has been completed allowing for the transmission of multiple HPV types to be modelled. The model has been used to estimate the long-term impact of the current female-only vaccination programme, and a theoretical male + female vaccination programme, on the incidence of genital warts due to HPV types 6 and 11 as well as the incidence of infection due to HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18. The model is being further developed to incorporate progression to HPV-related disease (e.g., cervical intraepithelial neoplasia and cervical cancer) and new methodology is under development to facilitate the calibration of the model in a Bayesian framework.

Personnel: David Regan, Matthew Law, Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor, Igor Korostil, Edward Waters

Collaborators: CSL Limited, Victorian Cytology Service Incorporated, Australian National University, University of Melbourne, La Trobe University

Funding: Australian Research Council, CSL Limited, Victorian Cytology Service Inc

Located: Biostatistics and Databases Program

Clinical public health

Australian Chlamydia control effectiveness pilot (ACCEPt) study

Current national guidelines for general
practitioners (GPs) recommend all sexually active people aged 15–29 years old receive annual testing for chlamydia. More than 80% of 15–29 year olds attend a GP each year less however less than 10% are being tested for chlamydia by their GP. ACCEPt involves a multifaceted intervention in the GP setting to maximise testing rates and annual testing in sexually active 16–29 year olds to see if it can reduce the prevalence of chlamydia infections and its associated complications such as PID. GP clinics and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in about 50 towns or regions throughout Vic, NSW and Qld have been invited to take part.

This is the first trial of this nature in Australia and is being led by the Centre for Women’s Health, Gender and Society. The University of Melbourne, in collaboration with a large consortium of experts including a number of researchers from NCHECR. In addition, NCHECR has been contracted to develop the protocol for Program Evaluation and Mathematical. The primary aims of this project are to assess the feasibility, acceptability and cost-effectives of an organised program for chlamydia testing in general practice. The secondary aim this project is to increase testing and awareness of chlamydia in the Australian population.

Status: Site recruitment in Vic, NSW, and southern Qld began in 2010

Personnel: John Kaldor, Basil Donovan, David Regan, David Wilson, Matthew Law, Rebecca Gug, Rebecca Lorch, Lisa Edward, James Ward

Collaborators: Jane Hocking (University of Melbourne), Meredith Temple-Smith, Jenny Walker, Simone Poznanski, Alaina Vaisey, Dyuni Lewis, Jane Gunn, Christopher Fairley, Nicola Law, Marian Pitts, Marion Saville, Darota Gertig, Sepehr Tabrizi, Margaret Hellard

Funding: Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Chlamydia Pilot Program

Located: Sexual Health Program

Uptake and outcomes of chlamydia or gonorrhoea testing programs in non-clinical settings: a systematic review

Primary care clinics play an important role in the prevention and management of sexually transmissible infections (STIs). A large proportion of young people attend primary care clinics each year for one reason or another and most chlamydial infections are diagnosed in this setting. However, despite the central role of primary care in chlamydia management, the proportion of sexually active young people attending these clinics who are offered screening at the time of their visit is suboptimal in many developed countries. This systematic review aims to examine the participation rate and outcomes of chlamydia and/or gonorrhoea testing programs among young people outside of clinical services.

Status: Data extraction almost complete and ready for analysis

Personnel: Rebecca Gug, Muhammad Shahid Jamil, Hammad Ali, John Kaldor

Collaborators: Jane S Hocking, Heidi Bauer, Jennifer Walker, Program Development and Evaluation, STD Control Branch, California Department of Public Health, Richmond, California

Funding: NHMRC Program Grant

Located: Sexual Health Program

Syphilis testing in HIV positive men

Clinical guidelines recommend three-monthly syphilis testing in HIV-positive men who have sex with men (MSM) as part of quarterly routine HIV management checks. However not all men are having quarterly HIV management checks, particular if they have clinically stable for a number of years. This study aims to assess the syphilis testing frequency in HIV positive men against the frequency of HIV management checks at seven clinical sites in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia.

Status: Data received from five sites to date. Analysis underway

Personnel: Rebecca Gug, Handan Wand

Collaborators: Andrew Carr, John McAllister, Marcus Chen, Chris Bourne, David Baker, Norm Roth, BK Tee, Jenny Hay, Mark Stoové, Carol El-Hagey, St Vincents Hospital, Sydney, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sydney, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, East Sydney Doctors, Prahran Market Clinic, Melbourne, The Centre Clinic, Melbourne, The Burnet Institute, Melbourne

Located: Sexual Health Program

Economic, social and cross cultural issues in non-pharmaceutical protection of front line responders to pandemic influenza and emerging infections

Non-pharmaceutical interventions such as face masks are one of the few widely available strategies that can be offered to front line responders (FLR) in outbreak situations and that can be guaranteed to be available regardless of the type of infection. This study aims to: 1) determine knowledge, attitudes and practices of FLR related to infection control and barriers to adherence to mask use; 2) conduct the first international RCT of the protection afforded to FLR by face masks against influenza and other respiratory viruses, 3) compare knowledge, attitudes and practices of FLR in Australia and Vietnam, and identify both culturally specific and universal issues that may affect the behaviour of FLRs in an emergency; 4) model the cost-effectiveness of surgical and N95 face masks; and 6) inform disease control policy nationally and internationally on the use of face masks in control of pandemic influenza, emerging infections or a bioterrorist attack.

Status: Ongoing.

Personnel: Lisa Maher

Collaborators: School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW (lead), Imperial College Faculty of Medicine, London; National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), Hanoi; Westmead Hospital, Sydney.

Funding: Australian Research Council

Located: Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Notifiable Diseases and Reproductive Health

This project uses data linkage in NSW to
examine the effects of commonly notified diseases including Sexually Transmitted Infections and Blood Borne Viruses on reproductive health outcomes in women.

**Status:** Awaiting linked data

**Personnel:** Bette Liu, Louisa Jorm, Christine Roberts, John Kaldor

**Collaborators:** University of Western Sydney; Kolling Institute University of Sydney

**Funding:** NHMRC Post-doctoral fellowship; NHMRC Program Grant

**Located:** Public Health Interventions Research Group

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**Identifying predisposing factors for, and the consequences of, common and emerging infectious diseases**

This project will involve using the 45 and Up Prospective cohort study and data linkage to examine what factors may predispose adults to certain infections and what the longer term consequences of infections are on health outcomes and health service utilisation.

**Status:** 2010 Study funding secured, approvals from data custodians obtained

**Personnel:** Bette Liu, John Kaldor, Emily Banks

**Collaborators:** Sax Institute; Australian National University

**Funding:** Ramaciotti Foundation

**Located:** Public Health Interventions Research Group

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**Diagnostics**

**Evaluation of syphilis PCR**

There is a need for rapid and reliable direct tests for syphilis. This study was an audit of the outcomes of testing men who have sex with men with lesions consistent syphilis at the Taylor Square Private Clinic with a new Treponema pallidum PCR assay. The test was found to be 90% sensitive for primary syphilis and 50% sensitive for secondary syphilis, and it diagnosed several patients with primary syphilis who had yet to seroconvert to syphilis.

**Status:** Final report in preparation

**Personnel:** Rebecca Guu, Basil Donovan

**Collaborators:** Matthew Shields, Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Neisha Jeffreys, ICPMR, Westmead Hospital

**Funding:** In-house

**Located:** Sexual Health Program

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**Syphilis point-of-care test evaluation**

Rapid point-of-care (RPOC) tests offer a new approach to ensuring that diagnosis and treatment of syphilis is timely across the diverse geographic and social settings of PNG. Until recently, the only commercially available RPOC tests for syphilis have been recombinant treponemal antigen assays, which are unable to differentiate between past-treated and recent syphilis, so are likely to result in substantial overtreatment if used in endemic settings. However, technological advances have led to the development of new RPOC tests which detect recent, as distinct from past treated infection. These newer tests will be evaluated in this study and compared with currently available syphilis POC tests and gold standard tests.

**Status:** Protocol complete and ethics approved; evaluation to commence mid-2011

**Personnel:** Rebecca Guu, Basil Donovan, John Kaldor, Louise Causer, Fraser Drummond

**Collaborators:** Peter Robertson, David Leslie, Jennie Leydon, Theo Karapanagiotidis, David Anderson, Mary Garcia, John Reeder, Kit Fairley, Claire Ryan, Tawarot Kurumop; Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL), Burnet Institute, Sydney Sexual Health Centre, South East Area Laboratory Service (SEALS), Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR)

**Funding:** NHMRC STI Program Grant

**Located:** STI Program Grant

**Co-located:** Sexual Health Program and Public Health Interventions Research Group
Prevention

HIV vaccine preparedness cohort study (Health in Men study)
A vaccine preparedness cohort study of HIV-negative homosexual men.
**Status:** During 2001-2004, 1,427 HIV negative men were enrolled and active follow up ceased in 2007. In 2010, final data analysis and reporting occurred.

**Personnel:** Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Iryna Zablotska, Mary Poynten, David Templeton, Jeff Jin

**Collaborators:** National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; AIDS Council of NSW

**Funding:** NHMRC; NSW Health Department

**Located:** HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Modelling interventions to prevent syphilis infection and their acceptability among gay men
This study uses mathematical modelling to estimate the likely impact of a range of interventions designed to reduce rates of syphilis infection among gay men, and uses both quantitative and qualitative research methods to assess how acceptable such interventions would be to the target population.

**Status:** Data collection is completed: 2,306 gay men were recruited to answer specific questions about their knowledge of syphilis and their attitudes toward a range of possible interventions through an online survey and were then invited to participate in three focus groups in Sydney and Melbourne. Data from mathematical models were considered alongside the findings from the acceptability study. A report of the findings was published and further data analysis and reporting is ongoing.

**Personnel:** Garrett Prestage, Jack Bradley, Ian Down

**Collaborators:** Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society

**Funding:** Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, NSW Health Department, Victorian Department of Health

**Located:** HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Modelling interventions to prevent HIV infection and their acceptability among gay men in NSW
This study uses mathematical modelling to estimate the likely impact of a range of interventions designed to reduce rates of HIV infection among gay men, and uses both quantitative and qualitative research methods to assess how acceptable such interventions would be to the target population. 600 gay men were recruited to answer specific questions about their attitudes toward a range of possible interventions through an online survey and were then invited to participate in five focus groups in Sydney. Data from mathematical models were considered alongside the findings from the acceptability study.

**Status:** Data collection completed; data analysis and reporting is ongoing

**Personnel:** Garrett Prestage, Jack Bradley, Ian Down, Steve Frendo

**Collaborators:** Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society

**Funding:** NSW Health Department

**Located:** HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Members of the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program
Staying safe: How do long term injecting drug users avoid hepatitis C infection?
Using an established longitudinal cohort of people who inject drugs (PWID) this project is looking to develop a new generation of hepatitis C virus (HCV) prevention programs to assist both new and experienced PWID to develop and implement strategies to remain uninfected with HCV. It will assist people who are infected but who clear the virus to continue to inject to avoid re-infection. Comparisons of PWID who have acquired HCV and those who have not over the long term (i.e. those who have "stayed safe") will also be explored.
Status: Ongoing
Personnel: Peter Higgs, Lisa Maher
Collaborators: The Centre for Population Health, Burnet Institute; Harm Reduction Victoria.
Funding: NHMRC Training Fellowship; UNSW Faculty of Medicine Small Grant Scheme
Located: Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

eTEST An initiative to enhance STI Testing in gay men
Regular testing of sexually active gay men is required to prevent ongoing transmission of STIs. This project assesses whether a multi-faceted intervention which involves software designed to encourage clinicians to test through passive prompts, SMS recall messaging, audit tools, education and incentives for testing can increase testing rates in general practice. eTEST will take place in Sydney among 10-15 GP clinics with the aim of increasing HIV/STI testing to at least two times per year in high-risk gay men, four times per year in HIV positive men, and re-testing after a chlamydia and gonorrhoea infection. These aims are in accordance with the testing guidelines for men who have sex with men.
Status: Commenced
Personnel: Rebecca Guy, Larissa Lewis, Handan Wand, John Kalil or Basil Donovan
Collaborators: Chris Bourne, Vijay Ramanathan, Jane Hocking, John De Wit, Denton Callander
Funding: NSW Health
Located: Sexual Health Program

HIM (Health in Men) study: per contact probability of HIV transmission
A cohort study to examine the probability of HIV transmission by sexual act.
Status: All 1,427 HIV negative men underwent detailed sexual behaviour interviews. Analysis and final reporting occurred in 2010
Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Iryna Zablotska, Jeff Jin, David Wilson
Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; AIDS Council of NSW
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

HIM (Health in Men) study: incidence and risk factors for pharyngeal gonorrhoea
A cohort study to examine the incidence and risk factors for pharyngeal gonorrhoea.
Status: All 1,427 HIV negative men underwent detailed sexual behaviour interviews and over 90% were tested for pharyngeal gonorrhoea. Analysis and final reporting occurred in 2010
Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Iryna Zablotska, Jeff Jin, David Wilson
Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; AIDS Council of NSW
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

HIM (Health in Men) study: defining high HIV incidence subgroups
A cohort study to define high HIV incidence subgroups of homosexual men who could potentially be targeted for HIV prevention trials. 1,427 HIV negative men underwent detailed sexual behaviour interviews. Analyses were preformed to identify subgroups with at least a 2% incidence of HIV.
Status: Analysis and final reporting in 2010
Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Mary Poynten, Garrett Prestage, Iryna Zablotska, Jeff Jin
Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; AIDS Council of NSW
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Communication
Social, behavioural and cultural research

Members of the Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

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Risk factors for HIV seroconversion
A study of risk factors for HIV infection among people recently diagnosed with HIV infection.
Status: During 2010, online and direct enrolment continued in Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia, and was extended to Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. In total, 247 men with recent primary HIV infection were enrolled into the study by the end of June 2010, and an additional 90 individuals, both male and female, were enrolled between July and December 2010. Preliminary analysis and reporting has commenced and is ongoing. Funding has been provided to continue the study through 2012 and extend to include women recently diagnosed with HIV.
Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Ian Down, Jack Bradley, Jeff Jin, Andrew Grulich
Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society; Curtin University; State AIDS Councils, State PLWHA organisations, and State Health Departments.
Funding: Queensland Health; Victorian Department of Health; NSW Health Department; Western Australian Health Department; South Australia Department of Health; Tasmanian Department of Health; Health Department of the ACT.
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Study of gay community attachment among Australian gay men and its implications for behavioural surveillance and research (Australian Gay Community Periodic Surveys)
Repeated cross-sectional surveys of gay-community attached men (behavioural surveillance); analyses of trends and predictors of gay community attachment and their implications for further behavioural surveillance and research in Australian gay communities.
Status: In 2010, all surveys completed in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra were reviewed for the information about gay community attachment. Analyses were completed.
Personnel: Iryna Zablotska, Garrett Prestage
Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research; State AIDS Councils; State PLWHA organisations; State Health Departments.
Funding: State and Territory Health Departments.
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Mapping gay community networks in Sydney, NSW
Mixed-method cross-sectional study involving interviews of opinion leaders representing different networks and organisations of gay men in Sydney to describe the structure and functioning of the Sydney gay community.
Status: The protocol and data collection instrument were developed. Data collection has commenced.
Personnel: Iryna Zablotska, Garrett Prestage, Ben Bavinton

The PASH (Pleasure and Sexual Health) Study: understandings of risk among gay men
A study of beliefs and attitudes about risks and consequences of HIV infection in Australian gay men.
Status: Data collection is completed: In total, 4125 men were referred to the survey, of whom 2306 provided sufficiently complete survey questionnaires for inclusion in analysis. 40 men were interviewed in depth. A comprehensive community report was published in May 2010. Further data analysis and reporting is ongoing.
Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Jack Bradley, Ian Down, Steve Frendo
Collaborators: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society; Curtin University; National Centre in HIV Social Research; State AIDS Councils, State PLWHA organisations, and State Health Departments.
Funding: Victorian Department of Health; NSW Health Department; Western Australian Health Department; South Australian Department of Health.
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Sexually adventurous men’s study
A study to document and record the work of the Sexually Adventurous Men Projects of the Victorian AIDS Council and PLWHA Victoria, and to investigate the beliefs and behaviours among gay men in sexually adventurous networks in Melbourne.
Status: Processes and record-keeping documentation have been established, and data collection is ongoing. Interview schedules have been developed.
Personnel: Garrett Prestage.
Collaborators: Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society; Victorian AIDS Council; PLWHA Victoria.
Funding: Victorian Health Department.
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Defining risk and mechanisms of percutaneous transmission of acute HCV infection within high-risk populations
A study of HCV transmission and its risk factors among homosexual men.
Status: The study samples have been stored and will undergo batch analysis in 2010. Recruitment is ongoing.
Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Ian Down, Jack Bradley, Mark Danta, Gail Matthews, Tanya Applegate
Collaborators: Funding: NHMRC.
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Social norms regarding HIV/STI risk and risk reduction behaviours among men who have sex with men in Australia (CONNECT study)
A cross-sectional quantitative study using respondent-driven sampling to recruit homosexual men in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth to investigate norms regarding sexual practices across different social/sexual networks.
Status: During 2010, the study protocol, data collection instrument and the study procedures were developed and recruitment staff trained. Recruitment of seeds started in December.
Personnel: Iryna Zablotska, Garrett Prestage, Michelle McKechnie, Ben Bavinton
Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research; Curtin University, AIDS Council of NSW (ACON), Victorian AIDS Council (VAC), AIDS Council of Western Australia (WAAC).
Funding: NHMRC (2010-2012).
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program.

Group sex study
A study to investigate the motivations and circumstances of group sex behaviour among gay men, particularly those behaviours that may contribute to HIV transmission.
Status: Data collection is completed: In total, 994 men completed the study questionnaire and sixteen men were interviewed in depth. Analysis and reporting is ongoing.
Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Jack Bradley.
Collaborators: The University of Sydney University of Western Sydney AIDS Council of New South Wales, Victorian AIDS Council; Queensland Association of Healthy Communities.
Funding: NSW Health Department; Victorian AIDS Council; Queensland Association of Healthy Communities.
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program.
Out on the Reef 2010
This is a study of the experiences of gay men living with and affected by HIV in North Queensland.

Status: Data collection is completed. Gay men living in North Queensland were invited to participate in three focus groups and in one-on-one key informant interviews in Cairns. Data collected through other studies that include men from this region are being reanalysed to identify specific issues among men in this region. A report of the findings is in preparation. Data analysis and reporting is ongoing.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Ian Down

Collaborators: Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society
Funding: Queensland Department of Health
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Monogamy: meanings and practices among gay men
This is a study of gay men’s attitudes toward and beliefs about monogamy, and how that affects the kinds of relationships they form.

Status: Gay men are being interviewed in depth about the concept of monogamy and their own relationships. Data collection is ongoing.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage

Collaborators: Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society
Funding: NHMRC
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

A survey of the sexual behaviour and sexual health of Australian prisoners
Little is known about the sexual behaviour, including sexual assault, of Australian prisoners. In addition, the consequences of introducing condoms and dental dams into prisons are unknown. This study was designed to qualify and quantify the sexual behaviour of male and female prisoners in all New South Wales and Queensland prisons. It also aimed to assess the effects of NSW prisons introducing condoms and dental dams in 1997. This study involves computer-assisted telephone interviews with prisoners and key informant interviews.

Status: Data collection completed in 2008; several reports published 2010 with more in preparation. The second monograph, detailing the Queensland findings, was also published in 2010.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, Karen Schneider, Tony Butler

Collaborators: Eva Malacova, Juliet Richters, Luke Grant, Alan Richards, Anthony Smith
Funding: NHMRC Project Grant, NSW Health Department, NSW Department of Corrective Services, Queensland Department of Corrective Services, UNSW
Located: Sexual Health Program

The Law and Sexworker Health (LASH) Project
It has long been suspected that different legal climates have different health and welfare outcomes for sex workers. As its various jurisdictions have different prostitution laws, Australia is an ideal country to study the effects of those laws. Three capital cities were chosen for their different legal climates: Melbourne, where sex work is only decriminalised in licensed brothels (licensing); otherwise it remains illegal; Perth, where sex work remains criminalised; and Sydney, where most
form of adult sex work are decriminalised, without licensing. Through legal research we determined the laws and the level of policing of those laws in Victoria, WA, and NSW. We also mapped the female brothel-based sex industry in each city. Brothels were chosen at random, with a survey target of 200 sex workers in each city. Each brothel was repeated approached until every sex worker consented to participate or refused. Each participating sex worker completed a questionnaire that was available in 4 languages. Those women were then offered testing for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, *Mycoplasma genitalium* infection, and trichomoniasis. Comparisons were made between cities.

**Status:** Analyses and reporting of the findings underway

**Personnel:** Basil Donovan, Chris Harcourt, Karen Schneider, Handan Wand, John Kaldor

**Collaborators:** Sandra Egger, Christopher Fairley, Marcus Chen, Lewis Marshall, Sepehr Tabrizi, Sexual Workers Outreach Project, Sydney; RHE, Melbourne; Magenta, Perth

**Funding:** NHMRC Project Grant; Victorian Department of Human Services

**Located:** Sexual Health Program

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**Exploring the natural history of injection drug use: A qualitative study of social and environmental influences in the VIDUS cohort**

This study seeks to: (1) examine the influence of social and environmental factors on critical initiation and transitional events among street youth and adults who inject drugs, including transitions in drug use, initiation into drug scenes and sex work; (2) examine the influence of social and physical context within ‘drug scenes’ on HIV risk behaviour; (3) refine and document an evolving ethnographic approach to investigating the natural history of injection drug use. The study employs observational ethnographic activities, in-depth interviews, mapping techniques, photography, and epidemiological data. Observational activities will be conducted in settings where illicit drugs are consumed. Qualitative in-depth interviews will be conducted with individuals who are members of existing cohort studies, and will utilise a longitudinal perspective through annual follow-up of participants.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Personnel:** Lisa Maher

**Collaborators:** British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, Vancouver (lead).

**Funding:** Canadian Institutes of Health Research

**Location:** Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

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**Culturally and linguistically diverse MSM at SSHC: diagnostic and behavioural trends**

Differences may exist in both STI risk behaviour and testing practice between the major Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups within Australia. The purpose of this study is to compare practice and trends over time. Data will be analysed by country of birth (Australian born versus overseas born) and language spoken.

**Status:** Data analysis ongoing

**Personnel:** Rebecca Guy, Handan Wand, Basil Donovan

**Collaborators:** Chris Bourne, Phillip Read

**Funding:** Nil

**Located:** Sexual Health Program

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**Unprotected oral sex and sex workers**

Unprotected fellatio at work may represent a risk for STI acquisition in the oropharynx, and subsequent onwards transmission. This study seeks to identify the determinants of unprotected fellatio, and where possible correlate this to the presence of gonorrhea in the oropharynx. Sex workers attending Sydney Sexual Health Centre were asked about their use of condoms for fellatio at work, and swabs were taken for gonorrhea testing. Preliminary results have been presented at the Australasian Sexual Health Conference 2010, and further analysis will be presented at the ISSTDR conference in July 2011 prior to publication.

**Status:** Preliminary results presented

**Personnel:** Basil Donovan, Rebecca Guy, Handan Wand

**Collaborators:** Phillip Read, Anna McNulty

**Funding:** Nil

**Located:** Sexual Health Program

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**Seasonal trends in STI diagnoses: an investigation**

Local, state-wide and national notification data for STIs appears to show consistent variation at specific times during the year. The aim of the study is to identify seasonal trends in STI diagnoses, and to correlate this to trends in sexual behaviour, alcohol and drug use. Data from the Sydney Sexual Health Centre database will be used for this analysis.

**Status:** Data analysis ongoing

**Project members:** Handan Wand, Basil Donovan, Rebecca Guy

**Collaborators:** Phillip Read, Anna McNulty

**Funding:** Nil

**Located:** Sexual Health Program

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**Do SMS reminders improve STI testing frequency in men who have sex with men (MSM)?**

In late 2008, Sydney Sexual health Centre implemented a reminder system to improve re-testing rates for HIV and sexually transmissible infections (STIs) in men who have sex with men (MSM). 3-6 monthly SMS reminders were recommended for high-risk MSM. We evaluated the impact of the SMS reminder system on HIV/STI testing re-testing rates in MSM attending Sydney Sexual Health Clinic. A controlled observational study design was used.

**Status:** manuscript accepted for publication

**Personnel:** Rebecca Guy, Handan Wand

**Collaborations:** Chris Bourne, Vickie Knight, Heng Lu, Anna McNulty

**Funding:** None

**Located:** Sexual Health Program

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**Do SMS reminders improve retesting rates after chlamydia infection in heterosexuals?**

Chlamydia re-infection is common in women and men. By 12 months re-infection rates have been reported to be as high as 22% in a chlamydia re-infection prospective cohort of young women in Australia 2008-2009. In light of the high re-infection rates, clinical guidelines in Australia recommend that any people diagnosed with chlamydia should be re-tested in three months to detect chlamydia re-infections. Despite this, a recent analysis of heterosexuals attending 19 sexual health clinics found that the proportion of patients with chlamydia infection who were re-tested in 1-4 months was 11.9% in heterosexual males and 17.9% in heterosexual females. In late 2008, Sydney Sexual health Centre implemented a SMS reminder system to improve the frequency of the re-testing within three months of a chlamydia infection. We evaluated the impact of the SMS reminder system on chlamydia re-testing within three months of initial infection in heterosexuals attending Sydney Sexual Health Clinic. A controlled observational study design was used.

**Status:** in progress

**Personnel:** Rebecca Guy, Handan Wand

**Collaborations:** Phillip Read, Aurelie Kenigsberg, Vickie Knight, Anna McNulty

**Funding:** None

**Located:** Sexual Health Program
Clinical epidemiology

Chlamydia incidence and re-infection study (CIRIS): a longitudinal cohort study of young Australian women
Chlamydia incidence and re-infection rates have never been studied in Australian women. We aimed to determine the incidence of chlamydia in a cohort of young women who initially screen negative, along with determining the re-infection rate of women who initially screen positive, in order to inform future population screening programs. This study involved the establishment of a cohort of young women attending a range of primary health care services who agreed to complete questionnaires and return self-collected vaginal swabs for testing over the next 12 months.

Status: The cohort was closed in 2010.

Analyses are continuing

Personnel: Basil Donovan, John Kaldor
Collaborators: Jane Hocking, Jenny Walker, Christopher Fairley, Marcus Chen, Jane Gunn, Marie Pirotta, V Harindra, L Gurrin L, Sepehr Tabrizi, Suzanne Garland, K McNamee, Hudson Birden, Frank Bowden
Funding: Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Chlamydia Pilot Program
Located: Sexual Health Program

A longitudinal study of bacterial vaginosis and Mycoplasma genitalium in young Australian women
Little is known about the epidemiology and natural history of bacterial vaginosis (BV) and nothing is known about M genitalium (MG) infection in Australian women. We seek to determine the prevalence, incidence and persistence of BV and MG in a general population of Australian women using the cohort established by the CIRIS study.

Status: The cohort was closed in 2010. Two reports have been accepted for publication and further analyses are underway

Personnel: Basil Donovan
Collaborators: Jane Hocking, Jenny Walker, Christopher Fairley, Marcus Chen, Catriona Bradshaw, Jane Gunn, Marie Pirotta, V Harindra, L Gurrin L, Sepehr Tabrizi, Suzanne Garland, K McNamee
Funding: NHMRC Project Grant
Located: Sexual Health Program

Examination of injecting drug use life course and estimating prevalence and health consequences of a dynamic population
This project examines longitudinal datasets of injecting drug users from the UK (e.g., Edinburgh Addiction Cohort Study) and Australia (e.g. Hepatitis Incidence and Transmission Study) taking into account periods of injecting and non-injecting. This will allow for more valid projections of injecting drug use health consequences and associated health impacts and costs of interventions.

Status: Ongoing.

Personnel: Jo Kimber, Lisa Maher
Collaborators: University of Bristol; MRC Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge; Muirhouse Medical Group, Edinburgh; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Funding: NHMRC (Sidney Sax) Training Fellowship
Located: Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Infection-related cancer

The SPANC study (Study of the prevention of anal cancer)
A cohort study to examine the prevalence, incidence and risk factors for progression of human papillomavirus infection and anal cancer precursors in HIV positive and HIV negative homosexual men aged 35 and older.

Status: The study team was assembled, collaborative structures formed, study protocol finalised, instruments developed, and the first...
Review of HPV associated cancers in Australia
A review of Australian cancer registration data to quantify the public health burden associated with HPV-related cancers in Australia.
Status: Analyses and final reporting occurred.
Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Jeff Jin
Collaborators: University of Melbourne, Commonwealth Serum Laboratories
Funding: NHMRC Fellowship
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Geographic variation in anal cancer incidence in New South Wales
A review of NSW data on cancer incidence in those postcodes with a high proportion of homosexually active men.
Status: Analyses of cancer incidence by postcode occurred.
Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Mary Poynten, Jeff Jin
Collaborators: NSW Cancer Registry
Funding: NHMRC Fellowship
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

HIM (Health in Men) study: seroepidemiology of Human papillomavirus (HPV)
A cohort study to describe incidence and risk factors for HPV seropositivity.
Status: All 1427 HIV negative men underwent detailed sexual behaviour interviews. Stored samples were extracted and shipped to the German Cancer Research Centre where they underwent multiplex serology for HPV. Analyses are ongoing.
Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Mary Poynten, Garrett Prestage, Iryna Zablotska, Jeff Jin
Collaborators: German Cancer Research Centre; National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; AIDS Council of NSW
Funding: NHMRC Fellowship, NHMRC program grant
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

International pooled analysis of immune risk factors for lymphoma
A pooled analysis of case-control studies of immune risk factors for lymphoma. All twelve member studies sent data on a pooled total of 12,982 cases and 16,441 controls, and results on auto-immune disease as a risk factor for non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) were reported.
Status: Analyses on the association between atopic disease and birth order were reported in 2010, and analyses on infectious conditions and NHL risk were ongoing.
Personnel: Andrew Grulich
Collaborators: UNSW Cancer Research Centre; University of Southern California; German Cancer Research Centre; Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Centre for Study and Prevention of Cancer; Aviano Cancer Centre; Catalan Institute of Oncology, University of California, San Francisco; David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles; University of York; British Columbia Cancer Registry; School of Medicine, Yale University
Funding: Leukaemia Foundation of Australia
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Cancer in primary immune deficiency
A project to describe the incidence of malignancies in people with primary (congenital) immune deficiencies and to compare this with the incidence of malignancy in people with HIV/AIDS and in those with organ transplants.
Status: Analysis and final reporting occurred in 2010.
Personnel: Andrew Grulich
Collaborators: UNSW Cancer Research Centre; Australian Primary Immunodeficiency Disease Register, The University of Sydney
Funding: NHMRC fellowship
Located: HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program
Immunopathogenesis and correlates of immunity research

**Immunophenotyping of T-cell subsets**
Many NCHECR clinical trial and natural history protocols involve immunological sub studies. The laboratory supports these sub studies as a semi-routine service.

**Status:** Routine use of 6-10 colour multiparameter flow cytometry. Intensive assays were performed as part of the PINT and CORAL studies, including analysis of Stem cells. The CORAL study was completed in 2010.

**Personnel:** Nabila Seddiki, Mee-Ling Munier, Michelle Bailey, Chansavath Phetsoulaphanh, Yin Xu, Anthony Kelleher
Collaborator: John Zaunders, St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** Project-specific grants

**Location:** Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

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**Primary HIV and early disease research – Australian cohort (PHAEDRA) Extension**
A systematic mechanism to follow up the PHAEDRA and Core01 cohorts in Sydney and Melbourne with acute and early HIV-1 infection.

**Status:** 147 patients were enrolled in this extension study by Dec 2010 and follow up is continuing.

**Personnel:** Pat Grey, Ansari Shaik, David Cooper, Anthony Kelleher

**Collaborators:** Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House General Practice; Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; Robert McFarlane, East Sydney Doctors; Dr B.K. Tee, The Centre Clinic; Norman Roth, Prahran Market Clinic; Phillip Cunningham, John Zaunders, St Vincent’s Hospital; Sydney, The Alfred Hospital; Tim Read, Melbourne Sexual Health; Sydney Sexual Health; John Murray, School of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, UNSW

**Funding:** NHMRC Program Grant

**Location:** Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

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**Australian Long-Term Non-progressor Study**
The Australian long-term non-progressor cohort study was established in 1994 and is still ongoing. Studies focussing on identifying the reason this rare group of people with prolonged HIV infection remain healthy, with virtually no damage to their immune system are extremely important for understanding the pathogenesis of HIV and for developing new antiretroviral therapy and preventative vaccines.

**Status:** Of the 141 participants recruited to this cohort 52 individuals (sustained non-progressors) are still treatment naïve. Four new patients were recruited in 2010.

**Personnel:** Linda Gelgor, Anthony Kelleher, Pat Grey, Ansari Shaik, John Kaldor, David Cooper

**Collaborators:** Long-Term Non-progressor Study Group, including clinical sites in Sydney, Port Kembla, Canberra, Brisbane and Melbourne; Kat Marks, St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney; Stephen Kent and Ivan Stratov, University of Melbourne. International collaboration includes Elite Controller

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Members of the Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program
Evolution of immune responses in primary infection and long-term non-progressors
This study examined the mechanisms of viral escape from cytotoxic T-lymphocyte responses, and particularly the events leading up to escape from the HLA-B27 mediated T-cell response at the level of Tecl receptor usage. It employs samples and data gathered during the follow-up of the long-term non-progressor (LTNP) cohort, and samples collected from the PHAEDRA cohort.

Status: T-cell receptor repertoire studies and viral escape studies completed and results published in 2010
Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Linda Gelgor, Kathy Petoumenos
Collaborators: Daniel Douek, David Price, Vaccine Research Centre, US National Institutes of Health; Miles Davenport, Vanessa Venturi, Centre for Vascular Research, UNSW
Funding: US National Institutes of Health; NHMRC
Location: Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

B cell subsets, neutralising antibodies and auto-antibodies at primary HIV-1 infection
Studies of overlap between neutralising antibodies and auto-antibodies at primary infection and the subsets of B cells producing these responses. Data collection on B cell phenotypes from cryopreserved samples cohorts of patients from Pheadra/core01 studies identified at primary infection. A low copy HIV-1 RNA assay (limit of detection 3 copies/ml) has been used for viral reconstitution disease (IRD) based on the samples studied ex vivo from patients suffering this disease.

Status: A study exploring the causes of this dysregulation, with particular focus on the role of T regulatory cells. Studies commenced in 2006 and were formalised to recruit all patient commencing CART late in the disease with a natural history study called PHIRS. The study is still ongoing with 20 patients enrolled (aim 20). Assays performed real time aimed to look at the phenotype (B flow cytometry panels) at intracellular cytokine secretion and at antigen-specific regulatory and effector T cells. Patient will complete the study in Q1 2011 and there after data analysis will be completed.

Personnel: Nabila Seddiki, Anthony Kelleher, Chansavath Phetsouphanh, Sarah Pett
Collaborator: Debbie Marriott, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
Funding: NHMRC
Location: Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Viral reservoirs
Currently available antiretroviral therapy has little impact on HIV viral reservoirs. The site, size and components of these reservoirs is poorly understood. Also, the impact of integrase inhibitors on latently infected cells, including residual viremia, which is tightly connected to these cells, is currently unclear.

Status: Assays to quantify the DNA species of HIV-1 total DNA, integrated DNA and episomal DNA, were established in the laboratory and validation of these assays has been completed. These assays have been used to analyse week 52 patient samples from the PINT study. Also, the analysis from samples of a of a raltegravir switch study has been completed in 2010, using the total HIV-1 DNA and 2-LTR circle assays. Another study commenced in 2009 and now complete, this study was aimed at the preferential infection of CD4+ T cell subsets during chronic HIV infection. A low copy HIV-1 RNA assay (limit of detection 3 copies/ml) has been used for quantification of low level (below 50 copy) viremia in patients currently enrolled in the CORAL study, this study has also been completed in 2010. A new and recently funded study to characterise the antigen specificity, frequency and function of latently HIV-1 infected CD4+ T memory cells is in preparation and is due to commence in 2011. In addition more detailed analysis of HIV DNA content in CD4+ T cell subsets from patients enrolled in the PINT study is to commence in 2011.

Personnel: Kersten Koelsch, Michelle Bailey, Kristin McBride, Paul Lam
Collaborators: John Zauders, Kat Marks, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; John Murray, School of Mathematics, UNSW
Funding: NHMRC, Merck
Location: Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Immunopathogenesis of immune reconstitution disease
Studies of the immunopathogenesis of immune reconstitution disease (IRD) based on the samples studied ex vivo from patients suffering this disease.

Status: A study exploring the causes of this dysregulation, with particular focus on the role of T regulatory cells. Studies commenced in 2006 and were formalised to recruit all patient commencing CART late in the disease with a natural history study called PHIRS. The study is still ongoing with 20 patients enrolled (aim 20). Assays performed real time aimed to look at the phenotype (B flow cytometry panels) at intracellular cytokine secretion and at antigen-specific regulatory and effector T cells. Patient will complete the study in Q1 2011 and there after data analysis will be completed.

Personnel: Nabila Seddiki, Anthony Kelleher, Chansavath Phetsouphanh, Sarah Pett
Collaborator: Debbie Marriott, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
Funding: NHMRC
Location: Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

RESTORE
An observational study to explore reconstitution of immunity in patients with advanced HIV-1 infection commencing combination antiretroviral therapy.

Status: start date September 2010.
Sites: one site in Thailand
Target: 13/50 patients
Personnel: Sarah Pett, Sean Emery, Anthony Kelleher
Funding: NHMRC, UNSW
Location: Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

Laboratory service and support

Specimen receipt and processing for clinical trials and natural history studies

The laboratory provides a service to other NCHECR programs encompassing the separation of blood components including but not limited to; cryopreservation of serum, plasma and PBMC, archiving and on shipping of samples. The service also includes database management of the storage of these samples. Staff also have experience with the implementation of assays which are not offered by local diagnostic laboratories. This service contributes to the overall smooth running of clinical trials and natural history studies.

Status: Ongoing
Personnel: Anthony Kelleher
Collaborators: Kate Merlin, Julie Yeung, Maria Piperias, Bertha Fasadni, St Vincent's Hospital, Maria Piperias, Bertha Fasadni, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
Funding: Project-specific grants
Co-located: Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program
HepBank Clinical Sample Repository & Open Access Substudy database (LabKey)

Establishment of a HCV sample repository that incorporates barcoding to facilitate patient sample and data management. This includes samples from ATACHC and CHARIOT and prospective trials including Sample collection for prospective cohorts and trials including ACTIVATE / ATACHC II / ETHOS. The web-based LabKey database will link existing clinical, sample repository and laboratory data sets to allow comprehensive analysis of clinical trial results. This will also strengthen collaborative efforts within NCHECR and with investigators from other leading Research Institutes.

Personnel: Ineke Shaw, Brendan Jacka, Pip Marks, Tanya Applegate, Ansari Shaik, Tony Kelleher

Funding: Program grant  
Co-located: Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Assay development

Assays of T-cell function, proliferation and cytotoxicity, and identification of antigen-specific T-cells

A range of flow cytometric assays for assessing CD4+ and CD8+ T-cell function are used in the laboratory. The measures of antigen-specific T-cells include T-cell proliferation, activation and cytokine secretion. Such assays are important for understanding HIV pathogenesis and in responses to vaccines, and therefore are included in the protocols of clinical trials and natural history studies carried out by NCHECR. Intensive assays were performed as part of the phase I trial of PO4112, and the PINT trial of therapy with the integrase inhibitor, Raltegravir. These studies have now also been extended to the PHIDO observational study of primary HIV infection. These assays are also being validated in two clinical trials: assessing latent TB infection; and CMV re-activation and Adenovirus infection following paediatric bone marrow transplantation, respectively.

Status: Continued analysis of samples from PHAEDRA and the long-term non-progressor cohorts.

Personnel: Nabila Seddiki, Mee-Ling Munier, Michelle Bailey, Yin Xu, Chansavath Phetsouphanh, Celine Yan, Anthony Kelleher

Collaborators: John Zaunders, St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney; Mahila Namasivayam, Tony Walls and John Ziegler, Sydney Children’s Hospital

Funding: NHMRC, St Vincent’s Hospital  
Co-located: Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

HIV drug resistance

This project involves the development of expertise in the application of a number of methods of detecting antiretroviral drug resistance through genotypic testing of HIV isolates. We have three major projects: evaluation and conducting commercially available genotypic testing for protease, reverse transcriptase regions; development of new in-house genotyping method from blood dry-spot from the patients as a starting material of genotype assay, which will be transferred to collaborator in south-east countries; and developing assay for the determination of CCR5 tropism of patients HIV isolates and establishing the HIV tropism genotype test in our laboratory. More than 700 HIV-1 resistance genotypes have been performed based on the commercial based resistant assays. New in-house genotyping method is under development for protease, reverse transcriptase, and Integrase regions. We are confirming sensitivity of the current developed assay and we will start to use dry-blood samples for genotyping assay. We have started evaluation of CCR5 tropism assay. We will compare this new tropism assay to the Trufle® assay, which is currently used as the standard assay.

Status: evaluation completed of ViralSeq HIV-1 Genotyping kits

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Celine Yan, Kerstin Koetsch, Yong Fan

Collaborators: Kazuo Suzuki, Philip Cunningham, Leon McNally, Alexander Carrera, St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney

Funding: NSW Health Department, Viiv

Co-located: Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

RNA inducing viral latency

This project is related to siRNA gene silencing for HIV-1 and SIV infection. siRNAs targeting viral promoter DNA region induce transcriptional gene silencing (TGS) of viral genes in infected cells. The study has been extended to two major objectives: delivery system of siRNA and mechanism gene silence. To develop and evaluate delivery system including lentiviral and non-viral delivery system to be used for mouse HIV-1 infection model, and to define the pathways by which dsRNAs targeting the promoter regions of HIV-1 and SIV.

Status: Constructs applicable for use in HIV infection are under development. The constructs will be incorporated into lentiviral delivery vector and the delivering system will be assessed in vivo. Epigenetic changes induced by siRNAs targeting HIV-LTR will be defined. The role of Ago1 in nucleus in this process will be determined by confocal microscope using tagged Ago1 and labelled siRNA.

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Chantelle Hood, Sanjay Swaminathan

Collaborators: Kazuo Suzuki, St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney, Takaomi Ishida, Makoto Ymamagisi, Toshiki Wanatane, The University of Tokyo

Funding: NHMRC

Co-located: Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Translational research: host

In-vivo hepatitis C virus adaptation to host HLA-restricted immune responses in recently acquired HCV (ATAHC)

To characterise HCV adaptation to HLA-restricted immune response and examine the influence of HLA alleles on HCV sequence evolution and escape mutations.

Personnel: Greg Dare, Cail Matthews

Collaborators: Simon Malal and Silvana Gaudieri (CCIBS, Perth) and Andrew Lloyd (UNSW)

Funding: NIH

Co-located: Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

IP10 & IL28B serum protein levels in recently acquired HCV (ATAHC)

Analysing serum IP-10 and IL28B protein
levels (by ELISA) as a marker of spontaneous and treatment-induced clearance during early HCV infection.  
**Personnel:** Jason Grebely, Tanya Applegate, Greg Dore, Gail Matthews  
**Collaborators:** Jordan Feld, Toronto University; Andrew Lloyd, UNSW  
**Funding:** NIH; program grant  
**Co-located:** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

IL28B-associated SNP mutations in recently acquired HCV (ATAHC)  
Assessment of human genetic polymorphisms associated with treatment induced and spontaneous clearance of acute HCV infection  
**Personnel:** Jason Grebely, Tanya Applegate, Greg Dore, Gail Matthews  
**Collaborators:** Jacob George, Vijay Suppiah, David Booth, Westmead Millennium Institute  
**Funding:** NIH; program grant  
**Co-located:** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

ISG expression profiles within peripheral blood in recently acquired HCV (ATAHC)  
Examining the effects of Ribavirin on ISG expression profiles and examine any between those with persistent infection and those with clearance, and Ribavirin mechanism.  
**Personnel:** Jason Grebely, Tanya Applegate, Greg Dore, Gail Matthews  
**Collaborators:** Michael Beard, Edmund Tse, Adelaide University; Nick Shackel, Centenary Institute; Andrew Lloyd  
**Funding:** NIH; program grant  
**Co-located:** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

T-cell responses in recently acquired HCV (ATAHC)  
To identify the prevalence, magnitude, and breadth of CD4 and CD8 T cell responses to HCV proteins in primary HCV infection and the changes in these responses in subjects with and without treatment.  
**Personnel:** Greg Dore, Gail Matthews, Jason Grebely  
**Collaborators:** Jacqueline Flynn, Rosemary French, Burnet Institute  
**Funding:** NIH  
**Co-located:** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Characterisation of the humoral immune response in recently acquired HCV (ATAHC)  
Development of an inexpensive incidence diagnostic test and investigation of serological markers of clinical outcome  
**Personnel:** Greg Dore  
**Collaborators:** Kim Wilson, National Serology Reference Laboratory  
**Funding:** NIH  
**Co-located:** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Resistance mutations to Directly Acting Antivirals in treatment naïve patients  
Identification of the prevalence of pre-existing resistance mutations within the ATAHC cohort, to polymerase and protease inhibitors using deep sequencing analysis.  
**Personnel:** Gail Matthews, Tanya Applegate, Brendan Jacka, Greg Dore  
**Collaborators:** Silvana Gaudieri, Centre for Clinical Immunology and Biomedical Statistics Royal Perth Hospital and Murdoch University  
**Funding:** Program grant, project-specific grants  
**Co-located:** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Characterisation of reinfection/mixed HCV infection in recently acquired HCV (ATAHC)  
Analysis of the prevalence and impact of HCV reinfection and mixed infection using direct sequencing and genotype specific PCR  
**Personnel:** Brendan Jacka, Tanya Applegate, Jason Grebely, Greg Dore, Gail Matthews  
**Collaborators:** Sean Pham, Peter White, UNSW  
**Funding:** NIH; program grant  
**Co-located:** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Members of the Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

**Translational research: viral**

**Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program**
Serotype identification of HCV genotype

Determination of HCV genotypes among participants with negative HCV RNA at enrolment during acute HCV infection using an established HCV Murex HCV Serotyping Kit, within the ATAHC cohort and the broader Inc3 Collaborative Group.

Personnel: Brendan Jacka, Tanya Applegate, Jason Grebely, Greg Dore

Collaborators: Janke Schinkel, University of Amsterdam; Naglaa Shoukry, University of Montreal; Andrew Lloyd

Funding: NIH; program grant

Co-located: Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Therapeutic research

Ribavirin concentrations in with chronic HCV in subjects CHARLOT

Determinants of plasma ribavirin concentration during the first 12 weeks of therapy in CHC genotype 1 patients treated within the CHARLOT study.

Personnel: Gail Matthews, Ineke Shaw, Rachel Ali, Greg Dore

Collaborators: John Ray, St Vincent’s Hospital

Funding: Roche

Co-located: Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Co-infection

Transmission networks in recently acquired HCV (ATAHC)

Explore clinical and molecular epidemiology of HCV transmission networks in HIV+/- population and assess if networks bridging into HIV- communities through phylogenetic and molecular clock analysis of HCV sequences.

Personnel: Gail Matthews, Tanya Applegate, Greg Dore, Jason Grebely

Collaborators: Sean Pham, Peter White, UNSW; Lei Zhang

Funding: NIH; program grant

Co-located: Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Hepatitis C virus transmission dynamics among injection drug users in Vancouver (ARYS / VIDUS Cohort)

To assess HCV transmission dynamics among IDUs, including HCV incidence, phylogenetics and phylodynamics, within well characterised injecting cohorts within Vancouver. To also assess mixed HCV infection/reinfection and mixed HCV infection among IDUs and the associated factors.

Personnel: Jason Grebely, Greg Dore, Tanya Applegate, Brendan Jacka, Gail Matthews

Collaborators: Mel Krajden, British Columbia Centre for Disease Control; Zabrina Brumme, Simon Fraser University; Richard Harrigan, University of British Columbia, Canada

Funding: Program grant

Co-located: Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

RAMPT-C cohort

Defining risk and mechanisms of permucosal transmission for acute HCV infection MSM and IDUs within high-risk populations. This includes analysis of transmission events through HCV sequencing, biological and behavioural mechanisms in incident cases.

Personnel: Gail Matthews, Barbara Yeung, Amanda Erratt, Tanya Applegate, Brendan Jacka, Greg Dore

Collaborators: Mark Danta, St Vincent’s Clinical School, UNSW; Margaret Hellard, Rose Ffrench, Kylie Gay, Burnet Institute, Melbourne

Funding: Program grant; project-specific grants

Co-located: Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program and Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Members of the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program
STRIVE
This study is a clustered randomised community trial with an intervention of a sexual health quality improvement program aimed at reaching best-practice targets in STI control. It is located in 67 remote communities, comprised of 23 clusters of communities, in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Far North Queensland. Over the next three years eight clusters of communities will be randomly assigned to receive the intervention.

Status: Baseline prevalence data for chlamydia, gonorrhoea and trichomonas has been completed from each of the 67 clinics
Personnel: John Kaldor, James Ward, Alice Rumbold, Rebecca Guy, Robyn McDermott, Lisa Maher, Basil Donovan, Linda Garton, Christopher Fairley, Bronwyn Silver, Janet Knox, Belinda Hengel, David Glance, Skye McGregor, Donna Ah Chee, John Boffa, Steven Skov
Funding: NHMRC Project Grant
Located: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program

REACCH: Research Excellence in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health
REACCH brings together the leading Australian institution dedicated to clinical research on sexually transmitted and blood borne viral infections (NCHER), and the peak organisation for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (NACCHO). Together, NCHCER and NACCHO will develop and implement a clinical research program through five selected ACCHS in urban and regional areas that with an aim of improving clinical practice and program delivery in this sector.

Status: Research being undertaken in each of the partner organisation sites
Personnel: John Kaldor, James Ward, Dea Delaney-Thiele, Sophie Couzos, David Scrimgeour, Jennyn Hunt, Greg Dore, Basil Donovan, Mary Ellen Harrold, Maurice Shipp
Funding: NHMRC Centre for Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE)
Located: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program

GOANNA
The first Australian study assessing knowledge, risk behaviours and health service access in relation to sexually transmissible infections and blood borne viruses of young Indigenous people. This project will conduct the first-ever Australian study describing levels of knowledge, risk practice and access to health services in relation to sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and blood borne viruses (BBVs) of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16 to 30 years.

Status: Currently underway; five of 40 survey collections sites completed
Personnel: James Ward, Heather Worth, Dea Delaney-Thiele, John Kaldor, Smith A, Marion Pitts, Joanne Bryant, Clint Arizmendi
Funding: Australian Research Council (ARC)
Located: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program

HIV Modelling Grant
Modelling the interaction between sexually transmitted infections and HIV transmission to inform public health policy. This project will conduct quantitative analyses using epidemiology, mathematical modelling, and health economics to investigate the impact of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and where applicable injecting drug use, on population level transmission of HIV.

Status: Literature review complete; models under development
Personnel: David Wilson, Richard Gray, James Ward, Jonathan Anderson, Rob Carter
Funding: NHMRC Project Grant
Located: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program

STI Modelling Grant
This grant will use mathematical models to assess the impact of interventions to reduce sexually transmitted infections in Australia. The aims of this project will be to develop dynamic mathematical models to describe the transmission of chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis in Australian populations and to further our understanding of their epidemiology. These will be used to assess the impact of interventions and the cost effectiveness on the incidence and prevalence of chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis in Australian populations.

Status: Several models completed, analysis and interpretation underway
Personnel: Jane Hocking, David Regan, David Wilson, David Philp, Anthony Smith, Andrew Grulich, James Ward
Funding: NHMRC Project Grants
Located: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program

SHIMMER: NSW Aboriginal Health Research Program
This grant aims to develop an Aboriginal Health Research Program within NSW Aboriginal Communities. This grant includes a trial aimed at enhancing clinical practice to reduce STIs in urban and regional Aboriginal primary health care settings in NSW.

Status: Research progressing
Personnel: James Ward, Basil Donovan, Rebecca Guy, Simon Graham, Janet Knox, Handan Wand, John Kaldor
Funding: NSW Health
Located: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program

Increasing completeness of ‘Aboriginality’ in infectious diseases data through record linkage – a feasibility study
The aim of this project is therefore to improve availability and validity of epidemiological data on notifiable diseases in Aboriginal people in NSW so that incidence and prevalence of these diseases can be more accurately estimated. The objective of this project is to link records from the Notifiable Diseases Database (NDD) with other routinely collected population health databases to prepare a de-identified ‘snapshot’ dataset, with improved completeness of ‘Aboriginality’.

Status: Linkage complete; data analysis and interpretation underway
Personnel: Jeremy McAnulty, James Ward
Funding: NSW Health
Located: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program

Development and trial of Key Performance Indicators for Sexually Transmitted Infection control in clinical settings with high bacterial prevalence
A review of the literature has revealed a lack of performance indicators relevant to settings with a high prevalence of bacterial STI, such as in the Northern Territory (NT). This project aims to identify, develop, trial and endorse a core set of
A situational analysis of public health responses to chronic hepatitis B in the Torres Strait:
This study is designed to identify priorities for an effective public health response to chronic hepatitis B in the Torres Strait through describing the impact of chronic hepatitis B infection on people and communities throughout the Torres Strait and to document how health service providers respond.  
Status: Data collection underway  
Personnel: Patricia Fagan, Cheryl Sendall, Yoko Nakata, Marian Pitts, Jack Wallace, James Ward, Stephen McNally  
Funding: Latrobe University  
Located: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease in the primary health care setting: an investigation of clinical management.  
This project is a review of current clinical practice in relation to the management of women of reproductive age who present to remote community clinics in Central Australia with signs and symptoms of pelvic inflammatory disease and or urinary tract infection.  
Status: Data collection complete, interpretation and analysis and dissemination underway  
Personnel: Bronwyn Silver, Alice Rumbold, Kirsty Smith, Janet Knox, James Ward, John Kaldor, Jacqueline Boyle  
Funding: NHMRC Program Grant  
Located: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program

Indigenous injecting use in Queensland (IIDU): a peer based research project  
This research aims to explore the patterns of use, risks and outcomes of Indigenous injecting drug users (IDUs) in Queensland.  
Status: Data collection currently underway  
Personnel: Robert Kemp, Jake Najman, Sidney Williams, James Ward  
Funding: Queensland Health  
Located: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program

The role of resiliency in responding to blood-borne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Indigenous communities  
A collaborative project between Australia, Canada and New Zealand to examine resilience to blood-borne viruses (BBVs) and sexually transmissible infections (STIs) in Indigenous communities. With a focus on adolescents and young adults in urban settings, the Australian component of the study seeks to identify factors that protect against acquisition of BBV/STI and promote access to prevention and treatment, and provide capacity building opportunities for Indigenous researchers and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services. In 2010 the third and final component of the Australian arm was completed, involving more than 300 interviews with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Townsville and Perth.  
Status: Ongoing  
Personnel: Julie Mooney-Somers, Anna Olsen, Marlene Thompson, Lisa Maher, John Kaldor  
Collaborators: Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Service Ltd; The Aboriginal Medical Service Coop Ltd, Redfern; Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, Perth; Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada; Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network; University of Ottawa; Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, University of Auckland; Auckland University of Technology; University of Otago Medical School  
Funding: Tripartite Cooperation Agreement between Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR); National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (NHMRC); Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC)  
Located: Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program and Public Health Interventions Research Group
Liver Spots: A study of hepatitis B knowledge, treatment and health care among Indigenous Australians

This project aims to engage Indigenous individuals, families and communities affected by hepatitis B, as well as health care providers and policy makers in addressing the social and treatment needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with chronic hepatitis B. Working with both urban and rural/remote communities, the study will investigate facilitators and barriers to biomedical knowledge, cultural healthcare needs, traditional health beliefs and facilitators and barriers of treatment uptake. Information generated from in-depth interviews and survey data will contribute to meeting the chronic health management and treatment needs of participating individuals and communities as well as providing data to inform the development of culturally appropriate resources and services for Indigenous Australians. Pilot work on the project began in late 2010.

Status: Ongoing
Personnel: Anna Olsen, Lisa Maher
Collaborator: Tullawon Health Service, South Australia
Funding: NHMRC Training Fellowship
Location: Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

From Broome to Berrima: building Australia-wide research capacity in Indigenous offender health and health care delivery

Australia has the highest Indigenous incarceration rate in the OECD, which impacts profoundly on Indigenous communities. Further, offender populations endure a greater health burden compared with the general community. This project is developing much needed capacity in offender health research, building a team of Indigenous researchers, and creating an Australia-wide network for sharing knowledge in this field. Outcomes will include better Indigenous offender health services and improved well being for this marginalised population.

Status: Ongoing
Personnel: John Kaldor
Collaborators: Tony Butler, Michael Levy, Fadwa Al-Yaman, Kay Wilhelm, Mick Dodson, Dennis Gray, Steve Allsop, Curtin University
Funding: NHMRC Capacity Building Grant
Location: Public Health Interventions Research Group
Survey of epidemiological cohort studies and specimen sample sets and development of technical guidance documents for HIV incidence assays
The goal of the project is to advance assay identification and development for both the detection of acutely HIV infected persons and for the identification of specimens from recently HIV infected persons. This project will add to the knowledge of how existing and developing science can lead to such assays and build resources that can be used for the evaluation and validation of assays. A Request for Proposals will be created to stimulate the development of new assays.
Status: Project completed 2010
Personnel: John Kaldor, Joanne Micallef
Collaborators: Timothy Mastro, Connie Sexton, Mary Lynn Baniecki, JMG Garcia, Gaby Vercauteren, Family Health International
Funding: Gates Foundation Grant
Located: Public Health Interventions Research Group

TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD)
Observational cohort study of patients with HIV at 18 sites throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Demographic, clinical and treatment data are aggregated twice each year via electronic data transfer.
Status: At the data transfer in March 2010, baseline and retrospective data from about 5000 patients from 18 sites were aggregated. It is expected that follow up will continue for at least a further three years.
Personnel: Jialun Zhou, Rebecca Oyomopito, Julian Elliott, Preeyaporn Srasuebkul, Matthew Law, David Cooper
Collaborators: Network of 18 clinical sites at countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region
Funding: American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) via a US National Institutes of Health grant through the International Epidemiologic Databases Evaluating AIDS collaboration
Located: Biostatistics and Databases Program

TREAT Asia Studies Evaluating Resistance (TASER)
There are two studies: First, a surveillance study (TASER-S) examining rates of transmitted HIV-resistance in newly diagnosed HIV-infected subjects not previously treated with antiretroviral drugs. Second, a monitoring study (TASER-M) assessing rates of developing HIV-resistance in patients starting antiretroviral treatments.
Status: Approximately 1500 naive and experienced patients had been recruited to TASER-M. Enrolment has ceased for the majority of the sites in 2010 with follow up continuing until mid 2011. Two new sites from Malaysia and Thailand have joined TASER-M and recruitment for these two sites will continue until 2011
TASER-S: Approximately 450 patients have been recruited from 5 sites. Recruitment has ceased for this study.
Personnel: Awachana Jiamsakul, Jialun Zhou, Matthew Law
Collaborators: Network of 12 sites in South East Asia
Funding: American Foundation for AIDS

Members of the Public Health Interventions Group
TREAT Asia Paediatric HIV Observational Database (TApHOD)

TREAT Asia Paediatric HIV Observational Database (TApHOD) is a collaborative cohort of HIV-infected children in the Asia-Pacific region. The study participants are recruited from TREAT Asia clinical sites. Demographic, clinical and treatment data are aggregated twice each year via electronic data transfer. Currently, 16 sites in six countries have agreed to participate and transferred their data to the NCHECR.

Status: Up to March 2010, 3635 children were recruited into TApHOD. Further recruitment is planned for 2011 and follow-up for at least three years. One new site in Vietnam and one in Indonesia will join TApHOD soon. These two new sites will have their first transfer in March 2011.

Personnel: Azar Kariminia, Matthew Law

Collaborators: Network of 16 sites initially throughout the Asia-Pacific region

Funding: TApHOD is funded by The Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), the Austrian AIDS Life Association, and the U. S. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

Located: Biostatistics and Databases Program

TREAT Asia Quality Assurance Scheme (TAQAS)

To ensure capacity in HIV resistance testing in the Asia-Pacific region, a quality assurance scheme was implemented. Twice a year, HIV-infected blood samples are distributed to laboratories around the region, with returned HIV resistance test results compared to a consensus result.

Status: Two sets of blood samples were circulated in March and October to up to 22 laboratories.

Personnel: Jialun Zhou, Rebecca Oyomopito, Matthew Law

Collaborators: Network of 22 laboratories; National Reference Laboratory, Melbourne; Stanford University

Funding: American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR)

Located: Biostatistics and Databases Program

HIV Consortium for Partnerships in Asia and the Pacific

The HIV Consortium for Partnership in Asia and the Pacific was established in 2007 and has nine member organisations comprising a broad range of HIV advocacy and technical expertise from Australia. The Consortium and its members are responsible for implementing AusAID’s Regional HIV Capacity Building Program. NCHECR is partnering with academic institutions in Indonesia and Cambodia to build capacity in HIV research methodologies.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Louise Causer, John Kaldor, Skye McGregor, Janaki Amin, Kathy Petoumenos, Sarah Huffam

Collaborators: IHRG, ARCSHS, ASHM, Albion Street Centre, NRL, Scarlet Alliance, AFAO, AIVL (Australia); NCHADS (Cambodia); JEN, Udayana University, Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia)

Funding: AusAID

Located: Public Health Interventions Research Group

Cambodia

Culture and HIV Prevention in Cambodia

This study assesses two cultural measures particular to Asian cultures, ‘harmonious control’ and ‘fatalism’ and their association with HIV infection and related risk and preventive behaviour, including adherence to a preventive vaccine regimen, among young women working in the sex and entertainment industry in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Phase 1 consists of a formative qualitative phase to assess the constructs of harmonious control and fatalism, risk behaviours, and attitudes toward biomedical prevention technologies. Phase 2 consists of a prospective observational study with clinical and serological assessments for HIV and other STIs, risk behaviours and measurement of adherence to a multidose preventive HPV vaccine series.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Julie Mooney-Somers, John Kaldor, Lisa Maher

Members of the Biostatistics and Database Program
Collaborators: University of California, San Francisco (lead); NCHADS; Cambodian Women's Development Association
Funding: National Institutes of Health
Location: Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Cambodian Treatment Access Program (CTAP)
Increasing access to antiretroviral treatment in Cambodia through the establishment of treatment clinics and technical assistance to the national HIV treatment program.

Status: Completed 2010
Personnel: Sarah Huffam, John Kaldor, David Cooper

Collaborators: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs, National Institute for Public Health, Phillip Cunningham, St. Vincents Hospital
Funding: Roche
Located: Public Health Interventions Research Group

China

Evaluation in China
Review and evaluation of HIV epidemics in China.

Status: Ongoing
Personnel: David Wilson, Lei Zhang, Eric Chow, Zhuang Xun, Lorraine Yap, Zunyou Wu, Jun Zhang, Jun Jing
Funding: World Bank Global HIV/AIDS Program, UNSW, AusAID
Collaborator: China CDC, Tsinghua University

Europe

Staying Safe: A sociology of how injecting drug users avoid viral infection in the long-term
This study aims to reconstruct the life trajectories of injecting drug users to identify social practices and conditions linked to long term avoidance of hepatitis C virus infection. Using qualitative life history studies from long-term PWID who have not been exposed to hepatitis C alongside those who have been exposed; this is the first research in the UK on long-term avoidance of viral infections associated with injecting drug use. To date a total of 13 in-depth qualitative interviews have been conducted.

Status: Ongoing.
Personnel: Lisa Maher
Collaborators: London School Hygiene Tropical Medicine, University of London (lead);
National Development and Research Institutes, New York; National Centre for HIV Social Research; The Burnet Institute.
Funding: Economic and Social Research Council
Location: Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Papua New Guinea

Women's and men's experiences of preventing mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) in Papua New Guinea: a gendered socio-cultural analysis of barriers and facilitators for program engagement
PNG is experiencing an expanding heterosexual HIV epidemic, placing an increasing number of newborns at risk of acquiring infection. This research seeks to understand the gendered socio-cultural aspects influencing the uptake and outcomes of PMTCT programs from the perspectives of antenatal women, their partners, and health care workers. It seeks to undertake an assessment of PMTCT programs; examine knowledge, attitudes and decision-making processes regarding PMTCT; test enabling factors to support safe delivery and post-natal care; examine experiences of consent, counselling and confidentiality; determine gender-specific barriers/facilitators to accessing PMTCT programs; develop recommendations for improved PMTCT programs.

Status: Commenced late 2009
Personnel: John Kaldor
Collaborators: Heather Worth, Angela Kelly, Barbara Kepp, Martha Kupul, Grace Kariviwa, Glen Mola, Torsicia Hunhoff, PNG Institute of Medical Research, UNICEF, University of Papua New Guinea, Catholic Health Services, International HIV Research Group, UNSW
Funding: AusAID Australian Development Research Award
Located: Public Health Interventions Research Group

Diagnosis of PTB in children in settings such as Papua New Guinea (PNG) is therefore usually made on the basis of a combination of contact history, clinical findings, tuberculin skin test (TST) and radiological findings if available. This approach can lack sensitivity and specificity, particularly in young children who are the most susceptible group to TB disease in childhood. As a result, children may be either under- or over-treated. The project aims to investigate the role of the QFN test in the management of paediatric TB in PNG.

Status: Ongoing
Personnel: Wari Allison, John Kaldor, Louise Causer

Fiji

Scabies - Factors associated with scabies in a highly endemic population
This study has three main objectives: to characterise the participants in a Fiji community survey of scabies; to identify environmental and demographic risk factors for scabies in Fiji; and to provide information on possible preventative measures for scabies.

Status: Commenced late 2010
Personnel: John Kaldor
Collaborators: Lucia Romani, Margot Whitfield, Andrew Steer
Funding: private philanthropy
Located: Public Health Interventions Research Group
MCAIS: Male Circumcision Acceptability & Impact Study, PNG
This four-year multi-disciplinary community-based research program is investigating the potential of male circumcision for HIV prevention in Papua New Guinea and has four principal components: ethnographic research; mathematical modelling; health systems research; and longitudinal clinical cohort studies. The study is being carried out among a combination of general and at-risk population cohorts at multiple sites in PNG. A sub-study to investigate the notional acceptability of a vaginal microbicide surrogate for HIV prevention among women and men attending a sexual health clinic in Port Moresby was completed in 2010.

Status: To be completed December 2011
Personnel: Andrew Vallety, John Kaldor, Peter Siba, Angela Kelly, Lisa Fitzgerald, Claire Ryan, James Neo, Marthap Kulup, Herick Aeno, Voletta Fiya, Petronia Kaima, Zure Kombati, John Millan, Greg Law, Joyce Sauk, Andrew Page, John Murray, David Wilson, Richard Gray, Peter Hill, Anna Tyman
Collaborators: PNG Institute of Medical Research, University of Queensland, Mt Hagen General Hospital, HOPE Worldwide, and PNG Institute of Medical Research, Goroka General Hospital, Mt Hagen General Hospital

Funding: AusAID Australian Development Research Award (ADRA)
Located: Public Health Interventions Research Group

NACS Masculinities Study, PNG
This two-year multi-disciplinary community-based research program will investigate the role that individual, community and cultural constructs of masculinity, male sexuality and sexual agency have in determining sexual behaviour among young men in PNG, and specifically, their role in promoting behaviours known to increase the risk of HIV and STIs among men and women. The study will be conducted in Eastern and Western Highlands Provinces, PNG where 50 to 60 in-school and out-of-school male youth aged 16-17 years will be recruited into a qualitative longitudinal research study and followed up every three months for up to 18 months.

Status: Fieldwork to commence March 2011
Personnel: Andrew Vallety, Angela Kelly, Lisa Fitzgerald, Peter Siba, Maxine Whittaker, John Kaldor, John Millan, Joyce Sauk, Herick Aeno, James Neo, Zure Kombati
Collaborators: PNG Institute of Medical Research, University of Queensland

Funding: National AIDS Council Secretariat, Papua New Guinea (NACS)
Located: Public Health Interventions Research Group

HSV-2 / HIV Epidemiology Study, PNG
This project will investigate the epidemiology of Herpes simplex Type-2 (HSV-2) among 100 HIV sero-positive and 200 HIV sero-negative individuals attending sexual health clinics in Goroka and Mt Hagen, PNG; and investigate the performance of different diagnostic assays for the detection of HSV-2.

Status: Fieldwork to commence Feb 2011; study to be completed by Dec 2011
Personnel: Claire Ryan, Peter Siba, Andrew Vallety, John Kaldor, Zure Kombati, Tawarot Kurumop, Petronia Kaima
Collaborators: PNG Institute of Medical Research, Goroka General Hospital, Mt Hagen General Hospital

Funding: National AIDS Council Secretariat, Papua New Guinea (NACS)
Located: Public Health Interventions Research Group

Vietnam

Evaluation of the epidemiological impact of harm reduction programs across Vietnam
This project involves the use of mathematical modelling techniques to evaluate the likely epidemiological impact of peer-education based harm reduction programs (distribution of condoms and needles and syringes) across numerous provinces in Vietnam.

Status: Ongoing
Personnel: David Wilson, Lei Zhang, Richard Gray, Rosie Thein, Amy Kwon
Funding: World Bank, UNSW, NHMRC
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Evaluating Needle-Syringe Programs in Vietnam
Status: Analysis complete
Personnel: David Wilson, Lei Zhang, Virginia Loo
Funding: The World Bank
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Thailand

Modelling HIV Vaccines (international collaboration with Centers for Disease Control)
Status: Thailand model ongoing. Project complete.
Personnel: Richard Gray, Karen Schneider, Alex Hoare, David Wilson
Funding: nil
Location: Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health
Commissioned reviews

Report on the sex industry in New South Wales
This is a state specific report of the Sex Industry in New South Wales that was commissioned by the NSW Health Department.
**Status:** Report in preparation
**Personnel:** Basil Donovan, Chris Harcourt, John Kaldor
**Collaborators:** Sandra Egger, Sepehr Tabrizi, Christopher Fairley
**Funding:** NSW Health
**Located:** Sexual Health Program

Report on the sex industry in Western Australia
This is a state-specific report of the Sex Industry in Western Australia that was commissioned by the Western Australian Health Department.
**Status:** Final report submitted 2010
**Personnel:** Basil Donovan, Chris Harcourt, Karen Schneider, Jody O’Connor
**Collaborators:** Sandra Egger, Christopher Fairley, Marcus Chen, Lewis Marshall, Funding: Western Australian Health Department
**Located:** Sexual Health Program

NSW Chlamydia review
In October 2009 the NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV and Sexually Transmissible Infections (CAS) Health Promotion Sub-Committee decided to review the NSW response to chlamydia. A Chlamydia Working Group was established to review the literature and to provide advice and planning support for the creation of NSW Chlamydia strategy.
**Status:** Report in preparation
**Personnel:** Hammad Ali, Rebecca Guy, Bette Liu, Basil Donovan, John Kaldor
**Collaborators:** Jane Hocking, Chris Bourne
**Funding:** NSW Health
**Located:** Sexual Health Program
Writing clinical trial databases, and providing biostatistical input to the design and analysis of all NCHECR projects.

**Status:** During 2010, members of the Program actively contributed to the design of, or analysed data from, the ALTAIR, ENCORE, SMART, ESPRIT, SILCAAT, Second line, Lipodystrophy Case Definition and MARCH studies (see Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program); the ATAHC study (Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program); the ACCEPt study (Sexual Health Program); the STRIVE study (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Study); the NSP survey (Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program); and national surveillance activities (Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health).

**Personnel:** Noorul Absar, Amit Achhra, Janaki Amin, Rossitza Chevkenova, Paul Fahey, Kathy Petoumenos, Handan Wand, Jialun Zhou

**Collaborators:** Other programs at NCHECR

**Funding:** Project-specific grants

**Located:** Biostatistics and Databases Program
Surveillance Committees

National Bloodborne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committee

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A N N U A L  R E P O R T  2 0 1 0

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NCHECR
10th International Workshop on Adverse Drug Reactions and Lipodystrophy in HIV Organising Committee (David Cooper)
11th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine Organising Committee (David Cooper)
12th IUSTI World Congress, Melbourne, 2012, Organising Committee (Basil Donovan)
2012 International Microbicides Conference – MA2012 (John Kaldor, Chair, Andrew Velly, Organising Committee Member)
20th Annual Meeting of the International Harm Reduction Association, International Program Advisory Group (Lisa Maher)
3rd Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health (CRIAH) Conference Scientific Advisory Committee (James Ward)
9th International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection Scientific Committee (HIV9) (David Cooper)
Aboriginal Sexual Health and Hepatitis Advisory Committee (James Ward)
ACCESS Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service steering committee (James Ward, John Kaldor)
ACCESS family planning network steering committee (Basil Donovan, Rebecca Guy)
ACCESS general practice network steering committee (Basil Donovan, Rebecca Guy)
ACCESS sexual health service network steering committee (Hamad Ali, Basil Donovan, Rebecca Guy, John Kaldor)
AHEMARC Hepatitis C Reference Group (James Ward)
AIDS Council of New South Wales Board (Garrett Prestage)
AIDS Council of New South Wales Ethics Review Committee (Garrett Prestage chair, Ian Down member)
AIDS Council of New South Wales HIV and Sexually Transmissible Infections Working Group (Garrett Prestage)
AIDS Council of New South Wales Lesbian Health Board Advisory Committee (Julie Mooney-Somers)
AIDS Council of New South Wales Research and Policy Advisory Committee (Garrett Prestage)
Alcohol and Drug Foundation NSW, Kathleen York House (Libby Topp, Director)
Altair Trial Protocol Steering Committee (David Cooper, Sean Emergy, Kathy Petoumenos, Rebekah Puls)
Anex Research Advisory Committee (John Kaldor)
Annecy HIV group for international HIV surveillance (David Wilson, Australian representative)
Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Biomedicine Editorial Board (David Wilson)
Australasian Health and Research Data Managers Association Executive Committee (Pip Marks)
Australasian Sexual Health Conference Sydney 2010 (Fraser Drummond)
Australasian Sexual Health Conference Sydney 2010 (Fraser Drummond)
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Antiretroviral Guidelines Panel (Fraser Drummond)
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, ASHM Journal Club Editorial Committee (Peter Higgs)
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Board member (Mark Boyd)
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Education and Training Committee (Sarah Pett)
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Education Resources Advisory Committee (James Ward)
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Expert Advisory Committee Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (James Ward)
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Hepatitis B for Primary Care Providers Monograph Editorial Committee (Gail Matthews)
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, HIV and the Body Steering Committee (Sarah Pett)
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, National Clinical Subcommittee (Fraser Drummond)
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, NSW Hepatitis B Reference Committee (Gail Matthews)
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Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases Annual Scientific Meeting Organising Committee (Chris Weatherall)
Australian Chlamydia Control Effectiveness Pilot (ACCEPt) Project Executive Committee (Basil Donovan, Rebecca Guy, John Kaldor)
Australian Collaboration for Chlamydia Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance (ACCESS) Coordinating Committee (Basil Donovan, Rebecca Guy, John Kaldor, James Ward)
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections (Andrew Grulich member)
Australian Hepatitis Council Health Reference Group (Lisa Maher)
Australian HIV Observational Database Steering Committee (Matthew Law, Kathy Petoumenos, Hamish McManus)
Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, Vietnamese Hepatitis C and Injecting Drug Use Project Reference Group (Lisa Maher)
Australian Institute of Policy and Science (David Wilson, associate member)
Australian New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group Independent Data Safety and Monitoring Committee (Matthew Law)
Australian NSP Survey National Advisory Group (Lisa Maher)
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council (John Kaldor)
Australian Red Cross Blood Service (David Wilson, monitoring advisor)
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Australian Society of Immunology Conference, Poster Judging Committee (Nabila Seddiki)
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Centre for Immunology UNSW Research degree review committee (Tony Kelleher)
CHEST Management Committee (Bette Liu)
Closing the Gap Evidence Working Group (James Ward)
Cochrane Collaborative Review Group on HIV infection and AIDS, Biomedical Interventions Reviews Editor (John Kaldor)
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Communicable Diseases Network Australia (John Kaldor)
Communicable Diseases Network Australia Working Group Leader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander working group National Surveillance and Monitoring Plan (James Ward)
Communicable Diseases Network Australia, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Surveillance Working Party (John Kaldor)
Communicable Diseases Network Australia, New Developments in HIV Surveillance Committee (John Kaldor, Chair)
Communicable Diseases Network Australia, Subcommittee on Surveillance of Bloodborne Viral and Sexually Transmitted Infections (John Kaldor, David Wilson, Tarana Lucky, Keira Robinson, Melanie Middleton, Ann McDonald, Rebecca Guu, Basil Donovan, James Ward)
Communicable Diseases Network Australia of Australia (CDNA), National Strategies HIV STI BBV Sub-Committee, subcommittee to develop a national surveillance and monitoring plan for the HIV, STI, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander STI and BBV Strategies (Lisa Maher)
Comprehensive International Program for Research on AIDS (CIPRA) HIV Research Program in Thailand and Cambodia International Steering Committee (David Cooper)
Current HIV/AIDS Reports Editorial Board (David Cooper, Honorary Member)
Current Opinion in HIV and AIDS (David Cooper, co-editor)
Current Opinion in HIV and AIDS Editorial Board (John Kaldor)
Department of Human Services Victorian HIV Taskforce (James Ward)
Drug and Alcohol Review Editorial Board (Lisa Maher)
Drug and Alcohol Review Editorial Board (Peter Higgs, Lisa Maher)
eljourn of the International AIDS Society Editorial Board (John Kaldor)
Enhancing Hepatitis C Treatment Uptake and Outcomes in Opiate Dependency Pharmacotherapy Settings Steering Committee (ex officio) (John Kaldor)
Estimation of HIV Prevalence for European Countries Working Group (David Wilson)
European Developing Country Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) microbicide trial feasibility study, East Africa Steering Committee (Andrew Grulich)
Evaluation Advisory Group - Drug Policies and Services within the Alexander Macdonald Centre (Peter Higgs)
Expert Working Group to provide advice on Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing-funded HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and sexually transmissible infections education and health promotion materials (John Kaldor)
Faculty of Medicine, Expert Review Panel (Sean Emery)
Faculty of Medicine, Research Management Committee (Anthony Kelleher)
Family Planning NSW Scientific Advisory Committee (John Kaldor)
Family Planning NSW Scientific Advisory Group (Donovan B)
FOXFIRE Data Safety and Monitoring Committee (Matthew Law)
Gardasil Advisory Board, CSL Ltd (Andrew Grulich, Basil Donovan)
Gastroenterology Metropolitan Committee on Hepatitis C (Greg Dore co-chair)
Genital Warts Surveillance Network (Hammad Ali, Basil Donovan, Neil Franklin, Rebecca Guu, David Regan)
Harm Reduction Journal Editorial Board (Lisa Maher)
Hepatitis C Victoria Research Advisory Committee (Peter Higgs, chair)
Hepatitis C Victoria, Board of Directors (Peter Higgs, president)
Hepatitis NSW Medical Research Advisory Panel (Greg Dore)
HIV Consortium for Partnership in Asia and the Pacific Management Committee (John Kaldor, Louise Causer)
HIV DART 2008 Conference Organising Committee (David Cooper co-chair)
HIV Netherlands, Australia, Thailand Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT) International Advisory Board (David Cooper, Co-Director, Chris Duncombe)
HIV Star Data Safety Monitoring Board Committee (Matthew Law, Stephen Kerr)
HIV Therapy Editorial Board (David Cooper, John Kaldor)
HIVNAT International Advisory Board (Sean Emery)
IAS (International Aids Society) Conference Organising Committee Co-chair, Basic Science Track Committee, International AIDS Conference (Anthony Kelleher)
IeDEA Cancer Working Group (Matthew Law, Stephen Kerr)
IeDEA Data Harmonization Working Group (Jialun Zhou, Rebecca Gyomyopita)
IeDEA Executive Committee (David Cooper, Matthew Law)
IeDEA Pharmacovigilance and Adverse Events Working Group (Jialun Zhou)
Immunovirology Research Network Steering Committee (Anthony Kelleher)
Infectious Disease Reports Editorial Board (David Wilson)
INSIGHT network, Executive Committee (David Cooper, Sean Emery)
INSIGHT network, Infrastructure Committee (Sarah Pett, Cate Carey)
INSIGHT network, Monitoring Group Committee (David Courtney-Rodgers, Nisha Seneviratne)
INSIGHT network, Quality Oversight and Performance Evaluation Committee (David Courtney-Rodgers)
INSIGHT network, Training Committee (Cate Carey)
Intensive Insulin Therapy Trials’ Collaboration
Steering Committee (Bette Liu)

International AIDS Society Meeting,
Epidemiology and Prevention Stream, Vienna,
Austria, Rapporteur (David Wilson)

International Centre for Science in Drug Policy,
Technical Advisor (Lisa Maher)

International Conference on the Reduction of
Drug-related Harm Scientific -Program
Committee (Lisa Maher)

International Epidemiologic Databases to
Evaluate AIDS Cancer Working Group (Stephen
Kerr)

*International Journal of Drug Policy* Editorial
Board (Jo Kimber, Lisa Maher)

*International Journal of STD & AIDS* Editorial
Board (Basil Donovan)

International Union against Sexually
Transmitted Infections, Executive Committee
(Basil Donovan, Senior Counsellor)

*Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency
Syndromes* Editorial Board (David Cooper)

*Journal of AIDS and Clinical Research* Editorial
Board (David Wilson)

*Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*
International Advisory Board (David Wilson)

*Journal of AIDS* Editorial Board (Basil Donovan, Senior Counsellor)

*Journal of Drug Issues* Editorial Board (Lisa Maher)

*Journal of Hepatology* Editorial Board (Greg Dore)

*Journal of HIV Therapy* Current Trends Advisory
Board (David Cooper)

Lao People’s Democratic Republic National
Strategy and Action Plan on HIV/AIDS/STI
2011-2015 (David Wilson expert reviewer)

Lionel Murphy Foundation (Board of Trustees)
(Lisa Maher)

Lotus House Refuge Management Committee
(Lisa Maher)

*Medicine Today* Board of Editorial Consultants
(Basil Donovan)

Medicines Australia Monitoring Committee
(Anthony Kelleher)

Menzies School of Health Research Advisory
Group (James Ward)

MGM Interagency (Iryna Zablotska)

Mid Term Review Steering Committee NSW
Health AIDS Branch Strategies HIV STI HCV
Aboriginal Implementation Plan (James Ward)

*MIMS Annual* Honorary Editorial Board (Basil
Donovan)

Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS,
Sexual Health and Hepatitis (MACASHH),
Hepatitis C Subcommittee (Greg Dore)

Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service
Advisory Group (Lisa Maher, Chair)

NACCHO Sexual Health and Bloodborne Virus
Advisory Committee (James Ward)

NAPWA Treatments Policy Advisory Group
(Fraser Drummond, Sarah Pett)

National Association of People Living with HIV/
AIDS, HIV Medication Working Group (Dianne
Carey)

National Breast Cancer Foundation Register
Epidemiological Questionnaire Design Advisory
Group (Bette Liu)

National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology
and STD (NCHADS) Steering Committee for
Cambodian Treatment Access Program (CTAP)
and AusAID funded HIV projects (John Kaldor)

National Centre for Immunisation Research and
Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Disease
Scientific Advisory Committee (John Kaldor)

National Centre in HIV Social Research
(NCHSR) Scientific Advisory Committee (Lisa
Maher)

National Gay Men’s Syphilis Action Plan NSW
Implementation Committee (Rebecca Guy)

National Gay Men’s Syphilis Action Plan
Steering Committee and Monitoring and
Evaluation Subcommittee (David Wilson,
Rebecca Guy)

National Gay Men’s Syphilis Action Plan
Technical Working Group (Basil Donovan,
Andrew Grulich, Rebecca Guy, Garrett Prestage,
David Wilson)

National Health and Medical Research Council
Centres of Research Excellence Grant Review
Panel (John Kaldor)

National Health and Medical Research Council
Project Grant Review Panel, Indigenous Health
(John Kaldor)

National Health and Medical Research Council
HIV STI BBV Working Group, HCV Working Group (Lisa Maher, Chair)

National Strategies HIV STI BBV Working
Group (Rebecca Guy, John Kaldor,
Garret Prestage, James Ward)

National Strategies HIV STI BBV project
working groups (Rebecca Guy, John Kaldor,
Garret Prestage, James Ward)

Netherlands AIDS Foundation Grant Scheme
(David Wilson, reviewer)

NHMRC Grant Review (Immunology) (Anthony
Kelleher)

NSW Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine
Annual Scientific Meeting Organising
Committee (Fraser Drummond)

NSW Chief Health Officer Report Special Topic:
STI (Basil Donovan, David Wilson, advisory
Funding Committee members)

NSW Department of Corrective Services Ethics
Committee (John Kaldor)

NSW Health Aboriginal Sexual and
Reproductive Health Program Advisory Group
(Rebecca Guy)

NSW Health Advisory Group for the Chief
Health Officer (CHO) Report, special topic on
sexually transmissible infections (James Ward)

NSW Health CAS Health Promotion Sub-
Committee Chlamydia Working Group (James
Ward)

NSW Health Fixing the Gap In the patient
journey: Improving access to hepatitis C
treatment among Aboriginal people. Project
Advisory Committee (James Ward)

NSW Health HCV Prevention Campaign
Advisory Committee (Bethany White)

NSW Health Member Mid Term Review
Committee, NSW HIV, STI, HCV and Aboriginal
Implementation Plan (James Ward)

NSW Health Panel Member, Statewide Review
of AIDS Funded Services (James Ward)

NSW Health Shared Scientific Advisory
Committee (Fraser Drummond expert reviewer)

NSW Health Shared Scientific Assessment
Committee (Fraser Drummond)

NSW Health Statewide Review of AIDS Funded
Services (James Ward)

NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on
Hepatitis (MACH) (Lisa Maher, Greg Dore,
James Ward)

NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/
AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections
(Andrew Grulich chair, Garrett Prestage member)

NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/
AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections,
Health Promotion Subcommittee (Andrew
Grulich chair, Garrett Prestage member)

NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/
AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections
Health Promotion Sub-Committee - Chlamydia
Working Group (Hammad Ali, Rebecca Guy,
James Ward)

NSW Population and health services research
ethics committee (Andrew Grulich member)
NSW Users and AIDS Association Expert Advisory Committee (Lisa Maher)
NUAA Policy & Campaigns Advisory Committee (Ian Down)
OpiCare Leadership Team (Greg Dore, Jason Grebely)
Papua New Guinea HIV Modelling Reference Group (John Murray)
Positive Life (NSW) Board Advisory Group (Garrett Prestage, Mark Boyd)
Practical Advances in Treating HIV (PATH II) Steering Committee (Sean Emery, Chair)
Prevention Science Track Committee, International AIDS Society Conference, Vienna, 2010 (Andrew Grulich)
Primary HIV Infection Advisory Committee (John Murray)
Project Management Group Randomised Control Trial, Tobacco Control AHeMRC (James Ward)
Project Reference Group NSW STI Campaign (James Ward)
ProPrems Trial Data Safety Monitoring Committee (John Kaldor)
Public Health Association of Australia - Justice Health Special Interest Group (Peter Higgs)
Queensland Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexual Health Member (Andrew Valletty)
Repatriation Medical Authority (John Kaldor)
Review panel for Sydney University Master of Medicine (HIV/STI) degree program (David Templeton committee member external)
The Sax Institute (David Wilson representative for NCHECR)
Sexual Health (David Cooper, Editor)
Sexual Health Editorial Board (Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor, Garrett Prestage)
Sexually Transmitted Infections in Gay Men Action Group (Jeff Jin)
Sexually Transmitted Infections Programs Unit Advisor Group, NSW (Rebecca Gu)
Sexually Transmitted Infections, Editorial Board (David Cooper)
Sexually Transmitted Infections, Elsevier, New Delhi (Basil Donovan, Section Editor)
Sidney Myer Health Scholarship Selection Committee (Peter Higgs)
SIRFLOX Independent Data and Safety Monitoring Board Committee (Matthew Law)
SPARTAC Trial Steering Committee (David Cooper, Anthony Kelleher)
SSDV Interagency (Ian Down)
St. Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research/UNSW Research degree review committee (Anthony Kelleher)
St. Vincent's Hospital Campus Institutional Biosafety Committee (Anthony Kelleher)
St. Vincent's Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee (Claire Vajdic, Deputy Chair; Kathy Petounenos, Handan Ward)
St. Vincent's Research & Biotechnology Precinct Hub Governance Council (David Cooper)
Steering Committee for NHMRC grant under the International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership (John Kaldor)
STIGMA - NSW Implementation committee for the National Syphilis Action Plan (Rebecca Gu)
STIGMA (Iryna Zablotska)
Suicide Prevention Australia Reference Group on Suicide and self-harm amongst the GLBTI communities (Garrett Prestage)
Surveillance and Monitoring Plan for national strategies HIV STI BBV Sub-Committee of the Communicable Disease Network of Australia Committee (David Wilson)
Sydney HIV Interagency (Garrett Prestage)
Thailand A/E Clade HIV Vaccine Trial Protocol Steering Committee (David Cooper, Sean Emery, Anthony Kelleher, Rebekah Puls)
The Cancer Council NSW Cancer Research Committee (Andrew Grulich)
The Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drug Study International Steering Committee (Matthew Law)
The HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC) Management Board (Iryna Zablotska)
The Sax Institute (Andrew Grulich)
TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database Steering Committee (Matthew Law, Jialun Zhou)
TREAT Asia Paediatric HIV Observational Database Steering Committee (Matthew Law)
TREAT Asia Quality Assurance Scheme Steering Committee (Matthew Law, Jialun Zhou)
TREAT Asia Steering Committee (David Cooper)
TREAT Asia Studies Evaluating Resistance Steering Committee (Matthew Law)
UNAIDS Estimation of Australia's HIV/AIDS indicators (David Wilson)
UNSW Academic Board Committee Member (John Kaldor)
UNSW Academic Board High Degree Research Committee (John Kaldor)
UNSW Faculty of Medicine Postdoctoral Advisory Committee (Mary Poynten)
UNSW Faculty of Medicine Research Grant/Early Career Grant Review (Anthony Kelleher)
UNSW Faculty of Science, Promotion to Professor Committee (Lisa Maher)
UNSW Health Data Linkage committee (Matthew Law)
UNSW Hepatitis C Vaccine Initiative Steering Committee (John Kaldor)
UNSW Human Research Ethics Advisory Panel: Medical/Community (Greg Dore, Jo Kimber, Lisa Maher, Mark Boyd)
VAC/GMHC Sexually Adventurous Men's Project Committee (Garrett Prestage)
Vietnamese Australian Buddhist Assistance Trust (Lisa Maher)
World Health Organisation Global Consultation on MSM and Transgender People (Mary Poynten, Advisor)
World Health Organisation Strategic and Technical Advisory Committee for HIV/AIDS (David Cooper)
World Health Organisation Working Group on Incidence Assays for HIV Infection (John Kaldor co-Chair)
World Health Organisation/UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Advisory Committee (David Cooper, Chair)
XVIII International AIDS Conference Abstract Reviewer (Lisa Maher)
Staff

Director’s office

Director and Scientia Professor of Medicine
David Cooper AO, BSc(Med), MB BS, MD, DSc, FAA, FRACP, FRCPA, FRCP

Executive Assistant
Janette Button

Research Assistant
Damien Cordery BSc(Hons), MPH, PhD

Vaccines program grant co-ordinator
John Wilkinson BSc(Hons), PhD

Manager, Research Communication
Louisa Wright M Journalism, MPH

Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

Head and Professor
Sean Emery BSc(Hons), PhD

Senior Lecturer
Mark Bagai BA, BM, BS, DCTM&H, MHID, MD, FRACP

Lecturers
Helen Byakwaga MB ChB
Dianne Carey BPharm, MPH
Sarah Pett BSc(Hons), MB BS(Hons), DTM&H, MRCP (UK), FRACP

Rebekah Puls BSc(Hons), PhD

Senior Clinical Project Co-ordinators
Cate Carey RN, BA, MAppSc(Research)
Allison Humphries BSc, MSc(Med), Grad Dip PH

Senior Coordinator - Regulatory Compliance
David Courtney-Rodgers

Clinical Project Co-ordinators
Maria Ariaga BSc, MScMed(STD/HIV)
Carlo Dazo BMedSc(Hons)
Megan Evans BAppSc HIM (Health Information Management)
Natalie Espinosa BS (Biomed), MA AppSc (ExErgSc)
Hila Haskellberg BSc
Sally Hough BAppSci, Grad Cert PM (from July)
Enmoore Lin BA/BSc(Hons), PhD (from March)
Simone Jacoby BSc, Dip Nutrition, Adv Dip Bot Med
Nisha Seneviratne BMEdSc, BBus
Jessica Taylor BNurs (from Jan)

Program Manager
Cathy Sajjadi Dip Bus

Data Managers
Kymme Courtney-Vega Dip Sp Th
Wendy Lee
Jose Aurelio Vieira Vulcao BA

Administrative Assistants
Maja Benilazic BEd

Lara Cassar
Rosemary Robinson
Alexis Shambrook

HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Head and Professor
Andrew Grulich MB BS, MSc, PhD, FAFPHM

Senior Lecturers
Mary Poynent MBBS, DCH, MPH(Hons), PhD
Garrett Prestage BA(Hons), PhD
David Templeton MB ChB, Dip Ven, Grad Cert Forens Med, MA CLM, FAChSHM
Iryna Zablotska PhD, MD, MPH

Post Doctoral Research Fellow
Jeff Jin BMEd, MPH, PhD

Research Assistants
Brian Acraman (from March)
Ian Down MPH
Michelle McKechnie BMedSci(Hons), PhD (from May)

Project Officer
Jack Bradley

Administrative Assistant
Ali Ayoub

The Director’s Unit with Professor David Cooper (second from right)
Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

Head and Associate Professor
Greg Gore MB BS, BSc, PhD, FRACP, MPh

Senior Lecturers
Call Matthews MBChB, MRCP(UK), FRACP PhD
Tanya Applegate, BSc(Hons), PhD

Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Fellow
Rachel Ali BA(BS), BMedSci(Hons), MRCPLondon

Lecturers
Marianne Jauney BM, Grad Dip App Epi, MPH(Hons), FAPHM (part time)
Rosie Thein MD, MPH, PhD (to October)
Jason Crebely, BSc, PhD

Clinical Trials Manager
Pip Marks BSc

Clinical Project Co-ordinators
Alexa Gillman BSc(Hons)
Ineke Shaw BSc, Grad Cert BioStats (to October)
Barbara Yeung RN, BHSc(Nursing), MPH

Senior Research Assistant
Brendan Jacka BSc(Hons)

Research Assistants
Amanda Erratt ADip (Admin)
Maryam Salehi Alavi (BSc), MSc

Data Manager
Patrick McGrath BA, Dip Ed (to December)

Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Moore

Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Professor and Head
Lisa Maher PhD

Senior Lecturer
Libby Topp BSc(Psychol) (Hons), PhD (from Feb)

Lecturer
Anna Olsen

Post Doctoral Research Fellow
Peter Higgs PhD, MA, BSW
Joanne Kimber BSc, PhD

Qualitative Research Co-ordinator
Julie Mooney-Somers BSc(Hons), PhD

Clinical Trial Co-ordinator
Kathy Barnes RN (to March)

Research Assistants
Anna Bates BA
Rachel Deacon BSc, PhD
Jarliene Enriquez
Mofiza Islam
Jenny Versen BAppSc
Ju Park BSc(Hons) (from May)
Anh Pham
Len Lia
Kerr Shying (to March)

Administrative Assistant
Rachel McClear BAI(Hons), BEd(Prim)

Project co-ordinator/ PhD candidate
Bethany White BA (Psych), MPh

Research Assistant
Heidi Coupland

Survive and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Head and Associate Professor
David Wilson BSc, BinTech, BAppSc(Hons), GradCert(Biostats), PhD

Lecturer
Richard Gray BSc(Hons), PhD
Lei Zhang BSc(Adv Hons), MSc, PhD, MPh

Post Doctoral Research Fellow
Josephine Reyes BS, MS, PhD (from May)

Coordinator HIV Surveillance
Ann McDonald BSc, MPh

HIV Surveillance Officer
Melanie Middleton BMEdSci, MPh
Tarana Lucky MBBS, MPh, MHA (student)

Research Officers
Md. Fakhrul Islam BSc(Hons), MSc(Stat), MS, MPh (from July)
Cliff Kerr BSc(Hons), DipArts, PhD (from July)
Kylie Ann Mallett BSc(Hons) PhD student (from July)
Keira Robinson BSc(Hons), MSc (from Feb)

Research Assistants
Eric Chow BSc, MAppSc(Bioinf) (from March)
Charisse Farr (to July)
Haris Chais
Kel Heymer BM, BAppSc(Hons) (to April)
Alex Hoare BSc(Hons)
James Jansson BTech, BSc(Hons) (part-time)
Victor Jaring
Shamin Kirti BSc(Hons), BSc
Amy Kwon BSc (Applied Mathematics)
Sheila Matele-Owiti BSc, MS MPH (from July)
Karen Schneider
Jianyun (Fred) Wu BSc MActSt, PDipStats (from Feb)

Program Coordinator
Meghan Brennan (from October)

Administrator
Mia Gatsios (to August)

Biostatistics and Databases Program

Head and Associate Professor
Matthew Law MA, MSc, PhD

Associate Professor
John Murray BSc(Hons), MSc, PhD (part time)

Senior Lecturer
Janaki Amin BSc(Hons), MPH(Hons), PhD
David Regan BA, BSc(Hons), PhD
Handan Wand MA, MSc, PhD
Stephen Kerr BPharm(Hons), MIP, PhD (HIV-NAT, Thailand)

Lecturers
Azar Kariminia BSc, MSc, PhD
Iqbal Petoumenos BS, MA, MPh(Hons), PhD
Jialun Zhou BMed, MPH, PhD

Associate Lecturers
Ben Hui Be (computer engineering), MBIomedE
Igor Korostil MSc (from May)

Statisticians
Heather Gidding BA(BSc), Grad Dip Epid
Biostats, MAAppEd, MPHAA
Paul Fahey BSc, MA(MedStat) (from April)
Awachana Jamalsuki BSc, MS
Sadaf Marashi Pour BSc, MSc (to February)
Hamish McManus BCon, BActSt, MBIOS
Rebecca Yousif BSc, Grad Dip Med Stat
Stephen Wright BM, MAAppStat

Computer Systems Officers
Noorul Ahsar B Tech, Grad Dip Inf Sc, MCompSW Eng
Rossita Chekonewa BSc

Research Assistant
Greg Lundy BSc(Hons) (to May)
David Philp (from July)

Program co-ordinator
Courtney Bentley DipBus

Administrative assistant
Supreet Meek B Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery (from October)

Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Head and Senior Lecturer
Anthony Kelleher BSc(Hons), MB BS(Hons), PhD, FRACP, FRCPA

Lecturers
Linda Celgor PhD, MSc
Ivan Kostelch MBBS, MD
Nabila Seddiki PhD (to October)

Senior Scientist
Nigel McCarthy BSc(Hons), MSc (to January)

Clinical Project Co-ordinators
Patricia Grey BA, Post Grad Dip App Sci, CNS, Dip (Counselling)

Research Assistants
Michelle Bailey BSc(Hons)
Chantelle Hood PhD
Susanna Ip BSc

Clinical Scientist
Azar Kariminia BSc(Hons), MSc, PhD (to January)

Clinical Project Co-ordinators
Patricia Grey BA, Post Grad Dip App Sci, CNS, Dip (Counselling)

Research Assistants
Michelle Bailey BSc(Hons)
Chantelle Hood PhD

Biostatisticians
Igor Korostil MSc (from May)

Senior Lecturer
John Murray BSc(Hons), MSc, PhD (part time)

Head
Basil Donovan MB BS, Dip Ven (Lond), MD,
A N N U A L  R E P O R T  2 0 1 0

FAFPHM, FRCP, FACHSHM
Senior Lecturer and NHMRC Post-doctoral Fellow
Rebecca Guy BAppSc, MApplEpid, PhD
Lecturer
Fraser Drummond MB ChB, MRCA, DA (UK)
Joanne Mixall PhD
Associate Lecturer
Hammad Ali BSc, MBBS, MPH (from June)
Project Co-ordinator
Lisa Edwards BNurs MPH (from August)
Neil Franklin BSc(Hons), MPH (to July)
Rebecca Lorch DipAdultNurs BSc(Hons) (from August)
Research Assistants
Kel Heymer BMath, BAppSci(Hons) (Part time)
Karen Schneider BSc(Hons), MPH (Part-time)
Rashmi Fotedar PhD
Administrative assistant
Candace Mitchell

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program Manager
Head and Senior Lecturer
James Ward
Research Manager
Simon Graham MApplEpid
National Co-ordinator
Clint Arizmendi PhD
Clinical Project Leader
Mary Ellen Harrod BA, Dip Arts, M Prelim, PhD (from June)
Project Coordinator
Lind Carton RN, Grad Cert Advanced Practice, Sexual Health (from November)
Research assistants
Snehal Akre MBBS, MPH (to October)
Sheila Matete-Owiti BSc, MSc, MPH (from July)
Administrative assistant
Candace Mitchell

Finance and Administration
Business Manager
Annie Tung MPA
Finance Managers
Gina Lam BAI(Hons), EMBA
Patricia Xu BEc, EMBA, CPA (to April)
Jence Oesman (from May)
Finance Administrator
Teresa Wong BA, CPA
Librarian
Coralie Kronenberg BA, Dip IM Lib, AALIA
IT Specialist
Sergio Sandler MSc, EE, Dip. Ed (from September)
Computer Systems Officers
Lisa Howard Dip IT
Charles Tran BCompSc
Manager, Human Relations
Brigette Sharp BA(Hons)
Manager, Administration
Tricia Koh BA, MA (from May)
Yvette Toole (maternity leave)
Administrative Officers
Candace Mitchell

Public Health Interventions Research Group
Head and Professor of Epidemiology
John Kaldor PhD
Associate Professor
Andrew Vallely MBBS, MRCP, MSC, DTM&H, PhD (from July)
Senior Lecturer
Bette Liu MBBS(Hons) MPhil(Hons) DPhil (from June)
Lecturer
Louise Causer MB BS, MSc, DTM&H
Program co-ordinator
Skye McGregor BA, BSc, MA

Researchers affiliated to NCHECR
Visiting Professor
Jennifer Hoy MB BS, Grad Dip Epi Bio, FRACP
Senior Visiting Fellow
Philip Cunningham BAppSc(Med)
Chief of Operations, St Vincent’s Centre for Applied Medical Research
St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney

Members of the Administration and IT Units
Visiting Fellows
Bruce Brew MB BS(Hons), MD, FRACP
Professor of Medicine
St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Nick Crofts MB BS, MPH, FAFPHM
Professor and Director
Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre,
Melbourne

Cathy Pell MB BS, MM
Specialist General Practitioner
Taylor Square Private Clinic, Sydney

Don Smith MB ChB, MD
Associate Professor and Head of Research
Development
Albion Street Centre, Sydney

Mark Sullivan BSc
Chief Operating Officer
VivaGel<sup>TM</sup> Microbicide Development
Consortium
Medicines Development Limited, Melbourne

Alex Wodak MB BS, MRACP, FRACP, MRCP,
FAFPHM, FACChAM
Director
Alcohol and Drug Service
St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
Postgraduate students and student supervision

Doctorates awarded

Kathleen Falster (UNSW)
Treatment experience and long term morbidity and mortality outcomes among a cohort of HIV-infected patients in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region in the era of combination antiretroviral treatment
Supervisors: Matthew Law, Basil Donovan

Susan Hudson (UNSW)
Sex, drugs and ‘ugly mugs’: an ethnographic study of women who inject psychostimulants and engage in street-based sex work in Kings Cross, Sydney
Supervisor: Lisa Maher

Mary Poynten (UNSW)
Biological and behavioural methods of prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission
Supervisors: Andrew Grulich, Jeff Jin

PhD candidates at NCHECR

Amit C Achhra
Bio-markers and other predictors of AIDS and non-AIDS diseases in HIV observational (cohort) studies

Supervisors David Cooper; Janaki Amin; Matthew Law

Jonathan Anderson
The role of economic evaluation in decision-making about HIV
Supervisors: David Cooper; Sean Emery; Kathy Petoumenos

Helen Byakwaga
Antiretroviral therapy and the management of HIV/AIDS
Supervisors: Sean Emery, David Cooper; Mark Boyd

Dianne Carey
Optimising therapeutic outcomes in HIV-infected subjects
Supervisors: Sean Emery, David Cooper

Eric Pui Fung Chow
Understanding the past, forecasting the future - investigating the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS in China
Supervisors: Lei Zhang, David Wilson

Paul Clark
Genomics to predict the complications of chronic hepatitis C and its treatment
Supervisors: Greg Dore, Alex Thompson (St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne)

Laura Cook
Characterisation of T regulatory cells
Supervisors: Tony Kelleher, Nabila Seddiki

Fraser Drummond
Chemoprophylaxis for syphilis in MSM - a trial of systemic chemoprophylaxis for syphilis in HIV positive men who have sex with men
Supervisors: Basil Donovan; John Kaldor; Rebecca Guy; Jeff Klausner

Heather Gidding
Hepatitis C-related morbidity and treatment in Australia
Supervisors: Matthew Law; Greg Dore; Janaki Amin

Simon Graham
An intervention to improve sexually transmitted infection control and management in selected Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in New South Wales
Supervisors: Basil Donovan; Rebecca Guy, Handan Wand

Hila Haskelberg
Antiretroviral toxicity in HIV-infected patients
Supervisors: Sean Emery, Andrew Carr (St Vincent’s Hospital); Janaki Amin

Kelly Jean Heymer
Using modelling to evaluate drivers and predict trajectories of HIV and STI epidemics in South East Asia and Australasia
Supervisors: David Wilson, Philip O’Neil (University of Nottingham)

Denise Chee Hsu
Using novel biomarkers to define the role of TB specific effector T cell and TB specific regulatory T cell in patients with Mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB) and HIV co-infection
Supervisors: David Cooper, Tony Kelleher

Jennifer Lynne Iversen
Enhanced sentinel sero-surveillance among people who inject drugs in Australia
Supervisors: Lisa Maher; Libby Topp; Handan Wand

Amy Kwon
Mathematical modelling of viral epidemics among injecting drug users in the Asia-Pacific region
Supervisors: David Wilson, Rosie Thein; Cliff Kerr

Kylie-Ann Mallitt
Geospatial Models of HIV Transmission
Supervisors: Handan Wand, David Wilson

Allison Martin (Humphries)
Toxicities associated with antiretroviral treatment of HIV-1 antiretroviral treatment effects on HIV Infection
Supervisors: Sean Emery, Janaki Amin

Sheila Matete-Owiti
Modelling HIV epidemics in Indigenous communities
Supervisors: Richard Gray; David Wilson; James Ward

Kristin McBride
Studies of the latent reservoirs of HIV-1
Supervisors: David Cooper; Tony Kelleher; Kersten Koelsch

Mee Ling Munier
The role of HIV-specific CD4+ T-cells at primary infection
Supervisors: Tony Kelleher; Bill Sewell; John Zauders

Rebecca Akao Oyomopito
HIV-1 drug resistance in treatment-naive and combination antiretroviral therapy exposed patients in Asia
Supervisors: Matthew Law, Tony Kelleher

Sarah Pett
Aspects of HIV-1 treatment: An exploration of the positive and negative physiological aspects of host-directed treatments for HIV-1 infection
Supervisors: David Cooper; Tony Kelleher; Sean Emery

Suzanne Polis
Adherence to hepatitis B antiviral therapies
Supervisors: Lisa Maher, Armany Zekry (St George Hospital)

Sanjay Swaminathan
Role of miRNAs in HIV-1 pathogenesis
Supervisor: Tony Kelleher

Winnie Wing Yin Tong
Measurement of immune responses to clinically significant viral pathogens in immunocompromised adults
Supervisors: Andrew Carr (St Vincent’s Hospital), Tony Kelleher

Edward (Ned) Waters
The analysis, ecology and implications of HPV variants in HPV related cancers
Supervisors: David Regan, David Phil (SPHCM); Andrew Grulich

Chris Weatherall
Characterisation of B-lymphocyte responses in primary HIV infection-neutralising antibodies and immune tolerance
Supervisors: Tony Kelleher, David Cooper

Bethany White
Hepatitis C vaccine preparedness
Supervisors: Lisa Maher, Greg Dore

Masters students at NCHECR

Tarana Lucky
Masters by Research
Quantitative techniques to improve monitoring and evaluation of HIV epidemics and to determine trends in transfusion transmissible infections (by producing a national surveillance report with Blood Service) in Australia
Supervisors: David Wilson, Handan Wand

Skye McGregor
M. Phil
Health priority setting in developing countries
Supervisors: John Kalbör, Rosie Thein

Chansavath Phetsouphanh
Masters by Research
Re-characterising Antigen specific CD4+ T Cells to HIV

Postgraduate students at Coogee
Supervisors: Tony Kelleher, Nabila Seddiki

**Lucia Romani, M. Phil**
Factors associated with scabies in a highly endemic population
Supervisors: John Kaldor, Andrew Steer
(Murdoch Childrens Research Institute)

**Bronwyn Silver, Masters by Research**
Reproductive health at risk: exploring the interface between sexual and reproductive health in Indigenous women in remote communities
Supervisors: John Kaldor; Rebecca Guy; Alice Rumbold (Menzies School of Health Research)

Honours students at NCHECR

**Lim Steven**
Supervisors: Tony Kelleher, Kazuo Suzuki
Characterisation of promoter targeted siRNAs during transcription gene silencing of HIV-1

**Murray Daniel**
Supervisors: Tony Kelleher, Sanjay Swaminathan
Mapping miRNA changes in the monocytes of HIV-1 infected patients

Supervision of non-National Centre students

**Botes Leon Pierre** (The University of Sydney)
PhD Candidate
Validation of the acceptability and reliability of self collected anal swabs used for cytological screening, to detect anal squamous intra-epithelial lesions in HIV-positive men who have sex with men
Supervised by Richard Hillman; co-supervised by Jeff Jin

**Fetherston James** (Curtin University)
Modelling hepatitis C transmission in Australian prisons
Co-supervised by David Wilson

**Lam Paul** (UNSW Faculty of Medicine)
Supervisors: Kersten Koelsch, Tony Kelleher
HIV DNA dynamics in patients switching to a raltegravir-containing regimen

**Lambert Stephen** (University of Queensland)
Supervisors: Scott Kitchener (UQ), Basil Donovan
Chlamydia in the Australian Defence Forces

**Londish Gregory** (on leave of absence)
Supervisors: John Murray, Matthew Law
The Impact of a Male Circumcision Intervention on HIV Epidemics

**Read Tim** (Melbourne University), PhD Candidate
Sexually transmitted viruses in men having sex with men
Co-supervised by Andrew Grulich

**O’Dwyer Matthew** (University of Sydney), u/g Public Health Honours

Influences on changes in HIV incidence rates in young men in Australia
Co-supervised by Iryna Zablotska

**Othman Loay** (La Trobe University), PhD Candidate
HIV and stigma in the United Arab Emirates
Supervised by Garrett Prestage

**Somanadhan Sowbhagya**
Influence of civil society on HIV policies and services in India and the participation of people living with HIV/AIDS
Supervised by Lisa Maher

**Zou Huachun** (University of Melbourne), PhD Candidate
HPV infection in young men who have sex with men
Co-supervised by Andrew Grulich
Collaborating organisations

**National**

- Association for Prevention and Harm Reduction Programs (ANEX), Melbourne
- Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, Sydney
- Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other drugs (APSAD)
- Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney
- Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Primary Immunodeficiency Register, Sydney
- Australia and New Zealand Cardiothoracic Transplant Registry, Sydney
- Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry (ANZDATA), Adelaide
- Australia and New Zealand Liver Transplant Registry, Brisbane
- Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Canberra
- Australian Centre for Hepatitis and HIV Virology Research (ACH2), UNSW, Sydney
- Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney
- Australian Gonococcal Surveillance Program, Sydney
- Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra
- Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL), Canberra
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra
- Australian Liver Association, Sydney
- Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit and its contributors, Sydney
- Australian Red Cross Blood Service, Melbourne
- Australian Red Cross Blood Service, Sydney
- Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne
- Communicable Diseases Network Australia, Canberra
- Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia (DANA)
- Federal Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra
- Hepatitis Australia, Canberra
- Immunovirology Research Network (IVRN), UNSW, Sydney
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Canberra
- National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney
- National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology, Perth
- National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University, Canberra
- National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases, Sydney
- National Centre in HIV Social Research, UNSW, Sydney
- National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW, Sydney
- National Serology Reference Laboratory, Australia, Melbourne
- Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH), Canberra
- Phase Forward Pty Ltd, Sydney
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
- Therapeutic Goods Administration, Canberra

**Australian Capital Territory**

- ACT Corrective Services, Canberra
- ACT Health
- Canberra Sexual Health Centre
- Canberra Sexual Health Clinic, Canberra Hospital
- Communicable Disease Control Program, ACT Health, Canberra
- Directions ACT, Canberra
- Interchange General Practice, Canberra
- John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra
- Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT
- The Canberra Hospital, Canberra

**New South Wales**

- Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW
- Aboriginal Medical Service Co-op Ltd, Sydney
- Aboriginal Medical Service Western Sydney, Mount Druitt Village
- AIDS Council of NSW (ACON), Sydney, Lismore, Newcastle, Penrith, Port Macquarie and Wollongong
- AIDS Research Initiative, Sydney
- Albion Street Centre, Sydney
- Albury Community Health Centre, Albury
- Area Health Services, NSW Health, Sydney
- Armajun Aboriginal Health Service Incorporated, Inverell
- Bigge Park Medical Centre, Sydney
- Blacktown Methadone Unit, Blacktown
- Blacktown Needle and Syringe Program Services, Sydney
- Blue Mountains Sexual Health Clinic, Katoomba
- Brindabella Family Practice, Queanbeyan
- Burwood Road General Practice, Sydney
- Central Access Service, Sydney (formerly St George Hospital Needle and Syringe Program)
- Centre for Addiction Medicine, Westmead Hospital
- Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice, Justice Health, NSW Health Department, Sydney
- Centre for Infection and Inflammation Research, School of Medical Sciences, UNSW
- Centre for Immunology, St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney
- Centre for Transplant and Renal Research, Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research, Sydney
- Centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine, University of Sydney
- Charlestown Family Medical Services, Charlestown
- Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health Department, Sydney
- Coffs Harbour Sexual Health Clinic
- Concord Hospital, Sydney
- Dubbo Sexual Health Centre, Dubbo
- Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service, Kempsey
- East Sydney Doctors, Sydney
- Faculty of Science, University of Sydney
- Fleet Street Opioid Treatment Unit, Parramatta
- First Step Program, Port Kembla and Wollongong
- Galambila Aboriginal Health Service Inc, Coffs Harbour
- Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney
- Gateway Opioid Treatment Service Clinic,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nepean Hospital</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goulburn River Group Practice, Goulburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Medical Practice, Coffs Harbour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grafton Sexual Health Clinic, Grafton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Southern Area Health Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harm Reduction Program, Liverpool</td>
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<td>Harm Minimisation Program, Newcastle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health ConneXions, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hepatitis NSW (formerly Hepatitis C Council of NSW), Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holden Street Clinic, Gosford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holdsworth House Medical Practice, Sydney and Byron Bay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter Harm Reduction Services, Newcastle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter New England Sexual Health Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation, Wollongong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illawarra Sexual Health, Port Kembla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indo-Chinese Outreach Network (ICON), Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justice Health, NSW Health Department, Sydney K2 Health Service, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kellyclose Mt Druitt Needle and Syringe Program Services, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirketon Road Centre, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kite Street Community Health Centre, Orange Laverty Pathology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lismore Base Hospital, Lismore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lismore/ Tweed Heads Sexual Health &amp; AIDS Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liverpool Hospital, Sydney</td>
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<td>Liverpool Sexual Health Clinic, Sydney</td>
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<td>Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre, Marrickville</td>
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<td>Manly Sexual Health Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Needle and Syringe Program, Gosford and Long Jetty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nepean Hospital, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nepean Sexual Health Clinic</td>
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<td>Newcastle FPNSW Centre, Cooks Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Services, Newcastle</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Coast Area Health Service, Harm Reduction Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Sydney Medical Practice, North Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service, NSW Health Department, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Sydney Sexual Health Service, St Leonards</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSW Centre for Health Record Linkage, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSW Department of Corrective Services</td>
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<td>NSW Health Department, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSW Health Department, AIDS and Infectious Disease Branch, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV/AIDS, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSW Users and AIDS Association (NJUAA), Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange Sexual Health Clinic</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Parramatta Needle and Syringe Program Services, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perinatal and Reproductive Epidemiology Research Unit, incorporating the National Perinatal Statistics Unit, UNSW</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
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<td>Positive Life NSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rankin Court Treatment Centre, Sydney Resource and Education Program for Injecting Drug Users (REPIDU), Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsive User Services in Health (RUSH), Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney</td>
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<td>Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney</td>
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<td>Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Clinic 36 Outreach Clinic, Sydney</td>
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<td>Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) Drug Health Services, Sydney</td>
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<td>Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Regent House Outreach Clinic, Sydney</td>
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<td>Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) Sexual Health Clinic, Sydney</td>
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<td>Sax Institute, Sydney</td>
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<td>School of Medical Sciences, UNSW, Sydney</td>
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<td>School of Public Health, University of Sydney</td>
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<td>School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP), Sydney</td>
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<td>Sexual Health and Infectious Diseases Service (SHAIDS), Lismore</td>
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<td>Sexually Transmitted Infections Research Centre, Westmead Hospital, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Court Primary Care Needle and Syringe Program, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Eastern Area Laboratory Services (SEALS), Prince of Wales Hospital</td>
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<td>South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service, NSW Health Department, Sydney</td>
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<td>South Eastern Area Laboratory Services, South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service, Sydney</td>
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<td>South West Area Health Service, Eastern Division</td>
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<td>South West Area Health Service, Western Division</td>
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<td>St George Hospital, Sydney</td>
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<td>St George Hospital Short Street Sexual Health Clinic</td>
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<td>St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney</td>
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<td>St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research</td>
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<td>St Vincent's Medical Imaging, Sydney</td>
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<td>Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, Sydney</td>
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<td>Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sydney</td>
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<td>Sydney South Illawarra Health Service</td>
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<td>Sydney South West Area Health Service, Sydney</td>
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<td>Sydney West Area Health Service, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sydney West Area Health Service HIV/Hepatitis C Prevention Service, Auburn, Blacktown, Merrylands, Mt Druitt and Parramatta</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
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<td>Sydney West Area Health Service Clinical Sexual Health Services</td>
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<td>SydPath, Sydney</td>
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<td>Tamworth Sexual Health Service, Tamworth</td>
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<td>Tarre Manning Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Byrne Surgery, Sydney</td>
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<td>The Cancer Council NSW, Sydney</td>
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<td>The Cancer Institute NSW, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tweed Heads Sexual Health Service, University of Sydney – Discipline of Addiction Medicine, Sydney</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
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<td>UNSW Cancer Research Centre, integrated cancer research group</td>
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<td>Wellington Aboriginal Corp Health Service, Wellington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Sydney Aboriginal Medical Service Mt Druitt</td>
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<td>Westmead Hospital, Sydney</td>
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<td>Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research, Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodlands Clinic, Blue Mountains Anzac Memorial Hospital, Katoomba</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Northern Territory**

Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory, Darwin
AIDS/STI Program, Disease Control, Department of Health and Community Services, Darwin
Alice Springs Hospital
Alice Springs Harm Reduction Program, Alice Springs
Alice Springs Sexual Health Service Clinic 34 Communicable Disease Centre, Royal Darwin Hospital, Darwin
Danila Dilba Health Service, Darwin
Darwin Harm Reduction Program, Darwin
Darwin Sexual Health Service
Family Planning Northern Territory, Coconut Grove
Menzies School of Health Research, Casuarina
Northern Territory Sexual Health and BBV Unit
Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis C Council, Alice Springs, Darwin and Palmerston
Northern Territory Correctional Services
Department of Justice, Darwin
Northern Territory Department of Health and Families
Palmerston Needle and Syringe Program, Palmerston
Royal Darwin Hospital

Queensland
AIDS Medical Unit, Queensland Health, Brisbane
Apunipima Cape York Health Council, BungalowBiala Alcohol and Drug Services, Brisbane
Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, Brisbane
Cairns Base Hospital, Cairns
Cairns Base Hospital NSP Services, Cairns
Cairns Sexual Health Service, Cairns Base Hospital, Cairns
Carbal Medical Service, Toowoomba
Chancellor Park Family Medical Practice, Sippy Downs
Clinic B7, Sunshine Coast-Wide Bay Health Service District, Nambour
Communicable Disease Unit, Queensland Health, Brisbane
Department of Correctional Services, Brisbane
Dolls House Sexual Health Clinic, Cairns
Family Planning Queensland, Toowoomba
Gladstone Road Medical Centre, Brisbane
Gold Coast Hospital, Southport
Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, Miami
Goondir Health Service, Dalby
Kewarra Family Practice, Kewarra Beach
Kobi House, Toowoomba
Nambour Medical Centre, Nambour
Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane
Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane
Princess Alexandra Sexual Health, South Brisbane
Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, Brisbane
Queensland Health, Brisbane
Queensland Injectors Health Network (QuIHN), Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast
Queensland Medical Laboratory (QML), Brisbane
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane
Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, Brisbane
School of Population Health, University of Queensland
Sunshine Coast and Cooloola HIV/Sexual Health Service, Nambour
Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Services Ltd, Townsville
Townsville ATODS
Townsville Health Services
West Moreton Sexual Health Service, QLD

South Australia
Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia, Inc. Adelaide
AIDS Council of South Australia (ACSA), Adelaide
Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA), Adelaide
The Care and Prevention Program, Adelaide University, Adelaide
Clinic 275, Adelaide
Communicable Disease Control Branch, SA Health
Department of Health
Flinders Clinical Trials Pharmacy, Adelaide
Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide
Harm Minimisation Program, Hindmarsh Centre, Adelaide
Infectious Diseases Laboratories, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide
Nnarlunga Community Health Service, Adelaide
Northern Metropolitan Community Health Service NSW and Shopfront, Salisbury, SA
Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia Inc, Adelaide
O’Brien Street Practice, Adelaide
Parks Community Health Service, Adelaide
Port Adelaide Community Health Service, Port Adelaide
Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide
Royal Adelaide Hospital Clinic 275
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Services, Internal Medicine Service, Royal Adelaide Hospital
Shine SA (Sexual Health Information Networking and Education Inc)
South Australian Health Department
South Australian Voice for Intravenous Education (SAVIVE) Nnarlunga, Norwood, Parks, Port Adelaide
Shopfront Youth Health and Information Services, Adelaide
South Australian Prison Health Services, Adelaide
Womens and Children’s Hospital Adelaide

Tasmania
Clarence Community Health Service, Hobart
Corrective Services Division, Department of Justice, Hobart
Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania
Devonport Community Health Centre, Devonport
Family Planning Tasmania, Hobart
Hobart, Devonport and Launceston Sexual Health Service
Hobart Sexual Health Service
Royal Hobart Hospital
Salvation Army Launceston, Launceston
Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases (TasCAHRD), Hobart and Glenorchy
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, Hobart
The Link Youth Health Service, Hobart

Victoria
Association for Prevention and Harm Reduction Programs Australia (Anex), Melbourne
Barwon Drug and Alcohol Services, Geelong
Bendigo NSP Services, Bendigo
Brighton Medical Clinic, Brighton
Centre for Population Health, Burnet Institute, Melbourne
Centre for Women’s Health, Gender and Society, Melbourne School of Population Health, University of Melbourne
Darebin Community Health Centre, Northcote
Deakin Health Economics Unit, Deakin University, Melbourne
Department of Human Services, Victoria
Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne
Genesis Medical Centre, Brighton
Health Information Exchange, Salvation Army, Melbourne
Health Works, Footscray
Inner Space, Melbourne
Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society, University of Melbourne, Melbourne
Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Melbourne
Melbourne Pathology, Melbourne
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre
The Microbiological Diagnostic Unit, University of Melbourne
Middle Park Clinic, Melbourne

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Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne
Monash University, Melbourne
Mooooloopa Medical Centre, Mooroopna
Nexpep, Victoria
North Richmond Drug Safety Program, Melbourne
Northcote Clinic, Melbourne
Northcote Needle and Syringe Program Services, Melbourne
Northside Clinic, Fitzroy North
People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), Melbourne
Prahran Market Clinic, Melbourne
Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne
Royal Women’s Hospital, Melbourne
School of Population Health, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne
Southern Hepatitis/HIV/AIDS Resource and Prevention Service (SHARPS), Melbourne
South East Alcohol and Drug Service, Dandenong
St.Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne
The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne
The Carlton Clinic, Melbourne
The Centre Clinic, Melbourne
Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Melbourne
Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, Fitzroy
Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men’s Health Centre (GAHVC), Melbourne
Victorian Cytology Service Inc, Melbourne
Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Melbourne
Wellness Centre Medical Clinic, Malvern East
Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Melbourne, Victoria

Fremantle Hospital Sexual Health Service
Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service, Geraldton
Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council, Broome
Kimberley Population Health Unit, Broome
Murdock University, Perth
National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology
Quarry Health Centre for under 25s, Fremantle;
Royal Perth Hospital, Perth
Royal Perth Hospital Sexual Health Clinic
Royal Perth Hospital, Department of Clinical Immunology
Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Program, Department of Health, Perth
University of Western Australia, Perth
Western Australian AIDS Council (WAAC), Perth
Western Australian Country Health Service (WACHS), Perth
Western Australian Substance Users Association (WASUA), Perth

International
Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam
AIDS Clinical Centre, International Medical Centre of Japan, Tokyo
AIDS Malignancy Consortium, Birmingham, USA
American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), New York
Angkor Hospital for Children, Siem Reap, Cambodia
Arkansas Children’s Hospital
Aviano Cancer Centre, Aviano, Italy
Bamrasnaradura Hospital, Bangkok
Beijing Ditan Hospital, Beijing
British Columbia Cancer Registry, Vancouver
British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, Vancouver, Canada
British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, Vancouver, Canada
Brown University, Providence, USA
Calgary Regional Health Authority, Canada
Cambodia NCHADS
Canadian Trials Network (CTN), Vancouver
Catalan Institute of Oncology, Barcelona
Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK
Centro de Asistencia e Investigacion Clinica de Immunocomprometidos (CAICI), Rosario, Argentina
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London
Chiara Mai University, Chiara Mai, Thailand
Chiang Rai Regional Hospital, Chiang Rai, Thailand
Children Hospital No. 1, Hoi Chi Min City, Vietnam
Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Beijing
Chonburi Regional Hospital, Chonburi, Thailand
Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, Soweto, South Africa
Chulalongkorn Hospital, Bangkok
Cipto Mangunkusumo General Hospital, Jakarta
Community Research Initiative of New England, Boston
Concerted Action on Seroconversion to AIDS and Death in Europe (CASCADE) and its contributors, Coordinating Unit, London
Copenhagen HIV Programme, Hvidovre University Hospital, Copenhagen
Cornell University, New York
Department of HIV/GUM Research, Brighton, UK
Department of Life Science & Medical Bio-Science, School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
Department of Social Medicine, University of Bristol, UK
Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Internal Medicine, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul
Division of Statistics, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA
Evangel Hospital, Jos, Nigeria
Duke Clinical Research Institute, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA
Faculty of Medicine, Udayana University and Sanglah Hospital, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle
Fondacion Arriarán, Santiago, Chile
Fondacion Centro de Estudios Infectologicos (FUNCEI), Clinica La Sagrada Familia, Buenos Aires
Gemeinschaftspraxis Jessen, Berlin, Germany
geneOmbio Technologies Pvt Ltd, Pune, India
German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg
Hadassah Medical Centre, Jerusalem
Harvard University, Boston
HIV Netherlands, Australia, Thailand Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT), Bangkok
Hopital Saint-Louis, Paris
Hospital Almenara, Lima, Peru
Hospital Central, Mendoza, Argentina
Hospital de Clinicas Jose de San Martin, Buenos Aires
Waikato Hospital, Hamilton NZ
Wayne State University, Detroit, USA
The World Bank
The World Health Organisation, Geneva
Worldwide Orphans Foundation (WWO), Ho Chi Minh City
Wuhan University, Wuhan, China
YRG Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai, India

Pharmaceutical and biomedical industry
Abbott Australasia Pty Ltd, Sydney
Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Ltd, Sydney
Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals, Melbourne
Calimmune, USA
CSL Limited, Melbourne
Gilead Sciences, Foster City, California
GlaxoSmithKline Australia, Melbourne
Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd, Sydney
Johnson & Johnson Research Pty Ltd, Sydney
Merck Research Laboratories, West Point, USA
Merck Sharp and Dohme, Sydney
Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney
Roche Pharmaceuticals
Roche Products Pty Ltd, Sydney
Schering Plough Pty Ltd, Sydney
Disclosure of financial and other relationships

In relation to the companies indicated, staff members listed below either served on advisory boards or received individual travel grants, consultancy payments or honoraria during 2010. No staff member was a personal recipient of a tied or untied grant or had ownership in intellectual property related to any company that funded NCHECR’s research program during 2010. Abbreviated forms of the company names have been used for ease of recognition.

**Mark Boyd**  
MSDA  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia

**Di Carey**  
Boehringer-Ingelheim

**David Cooper**  
Abbott  
Bristol-Myers Squibb  
Gilead  
Janssen-Cilag  
Merck  
Pfizer  
Tobira  
ViiV

**Basil Donovan**  
CSL  
Sanofi-Pasteur MSD

**Greg Dore**  
Bristol-Myers Squibb  
Gilead  
Janssen-Cilag  
Merck  
Roche

**Sean Emery**  
Abbott  
BMS Australia  
Gilead  
GlaxoSmithKline  
MSDA  
Tibotec  
ViiV

**Jason Grebely**  
Merck Sharp and Dohme  
Schering-Plough

**Andrew Grulich**  
CSL  
Merck Sharp and Dohme

**Anthony Kelleher**  
Becton Dickenson  
Merck Sharp & Dohme  
ViiV  
Virax

**Matthew Law**  
DLA Phillips  
NSW Health  
Sirtex Technology Pty Ltd

**Pip Marks**  
Roche

**Gail Matthews**  
Bristol-Myers Squibb  
Gilead  
Merck Sharp & Dohme  
Roche

**Sarah Pett**  
Boehringer-Ingelheim  
Gilead Sciences  
Merck Sharp & Dohme  
ViiV
Funding

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
Research activities for blood borne virus and sexually transmissible infections 5,871,235
The Australian Collaboration for Chlamydia Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance (ACCESS) Project 141,265

Other grants and contracts from public sources – American Foundation for AIDS Research:
TREAT Asia Studies to Evaluate Resistance (TASER) 231,449
TREAT Asia Quality Assurance Scheme (TAQAS) 194,502
TREAT Asia Pediatric HIV Observational Database (TApHOD) 189,896

AusAID:
Evaluating and predicting the epidemiological impact of health policies for reducing HIV in Melanesian and South-East Asian populations 152,558

Australian Research Council (ARC):
Planning female and male vaccination and cervical screening strategies to achieve optimal prevention of HPV-related disease (Project) 122,358
Planning female and male vaccination and cervical screening strategies to achieve optimal prevention of HPV-related disease (APAI) 40,292
Sexual health and relationships in young Indigenous people 208,284
Using mathematical modelling to inform HIV/AIDS public health policy 178,710
Understanding spatial trends in HIV/AIDS infections in South Africa and Australia 81,660

Australian Society for HIV Medicine:
A Prospective cohort study of Hepatitis C treatment delivery in primary care settings 29,385
Consortium to Implement AusAID’s Regional Capacity Building Program 2007-2011 - Cambodia 199,786
Consortium to Implement AusAID’s Regional Capacity Building Program 2007-2011 - Indonesia 192,743

Department of State and Regional Development to Industry and Investment NSW - Infrastructure Funding agreement with St Vincent’s Hospital 3,050,053

European Medicines Evaluation Agency: Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drugs Study 44,420

Family Health International Subcontract funded from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: Development of Assays for Acute HIV Infection and Estimation of HIV Incidence in Populations 66,207

Head of Finance, Annie Tung (second from left) with members of the Finance Unit
### Medical Research Council, UK: SPARTAC Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Funding (AUD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCRE in Aboriginal Health: Blood borne viral and sexually transmitted infection</td>
<td>227,273</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Grant - HIV &amp; HCV vaccines and immunopathogenesis</td>
<td>1,898,983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Grant - Sexually Transmitted Infections</td>
<td>1,075,032</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Grant - Defining risk and mechanisms of permucosal transmission for acute HCV infection within high-risk populations</td>
<td>128,368</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Grant - Hepatitis C Vaccine Preparedness Study</td>
<td>249,894</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Grant - Modelling and economic evaluation of hepatitis C epidemic mitigation strategies in Australia</td>
<td>152,339</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Grant - Modelling the interaction between sexually transmitted infections and HIV transmission to inform public health policy</td>
<td>162,529</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Grant - Randomised controlled trial of Hepatitis B Vaccine Completion in Injecting Drug Users</td>
<td>85,042</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Grant - Randomised trial to determine the safety and efficacy of early versus deferred treatment of adult HIV infection (START)</td>
<td>137,545</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Grant - Social norms regarding HIV/STI risk and risk reduction behaviours among men who have sex with men in Australia</td>
<td>189,596</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NHMRC - Research Fellows:

- Practitioner Fellowship for Basil Donovan: 102,893
- Practitioner Fellowship for Greg Dore: 85,774
- Practitioner Fellowship for Tony Kelleher: 73,520
- Public Health Fellowship for Bette Liu: 80,008
- Public Health Fellowship for Rebecca Guy: 72,508
- Public Health Fellowship for Peter Higgs: 72,508
- PRF - Andrew Grulich: 138,074
- SPRF - John Kaldor: 156,161
- SPRF - Lisa Maher: 114,128
- Postgraduate Scholarship for Bethany White: 18,647
- Sidney Sax Fellowship - Joanne Kimber: 72,508

### NHMRC - Program Grant Subcontract:

- University of Sydney: Mathematical Modelling for improved planning of infectious disease control policy: 30,000
- University of Sydney: Building research capacity for health interventions to improve Aboriginal health: 56,750
- University of Melbourne: Using mathematical models to assess the impact of interventions to reduce sexually transmitted infections in Australia: 110,000

### NSW Health Department

- Australian Chronic Hepatitis C Observational Study (ACHOS): 74,500
- Expert services in HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible diseases: 50,000
- HIV Seroconversion Study: 21,378
- Increasing access to HCV treatment in NSW through opiate pharmacotherapy settings - pilot clinics project (ETHOS): 60,000
- NSW Gay Men's HIV Prevention Modelling Project: 50,000
- Sexual health and relationships in young Indigenous People (ARC Linkage Partner): 41,000

### ACT Health

- Sexual health and relationships in young Indigenous People (ARC Linkage Partner): 1,000

### Queensland Health

- Australian Chronic Hepatitis C Observational Study (ACHOS): 117,874
- Sexual health and relationships in young Indigenous People (ARC Linkage Partner): 12,500
- Study of risk factors for HIV seroconversion: 11,150

### South Australia Health

- Evaluation of the South Australian HIV Epidemic: 17,096

### Tasmania Health & Human Services

- Sexual health and relationships in young Indigenous People (ARC Linkage Partner): 3,000

### Victoria Health

- Sexual health and relationships in young Indigenous People (ARC Linkage Partner): 15,500

### Western Australia Health

- Sexual health and relationships in young Indigenous People (ARC Linkage Partner): 11,955
- Study of risk and HIV among men who have sex with men in Western Australia: 11,955

### The Cancer Council NSW

- Strategic Research Partnership Grant with University of Sydney - Towards a strategic partnership (STREP): 50,000

### The University of Melbourne

- Collaborative Agreement from Department of Health & Ageing - Evaluation of Chlamydia Pilot in General Practice (ACCEPt): 159,200

### UNAIDS

- Evaluating the effectiveness of needle and syringe programs in Eastern Europe: 33,668
### US National Institutes of Health
- Treatment of recently acquired hepatitis C virus infection (ATAHC 2) $183,140$

### US National Institutes of Health subcontracts
- American Foundation for AIDS Research: TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (APHOD) $424,714$
- Thai Red Cross Research Centre: HIV Research Program in Thailand and Cambodia $85,472$
- University of California, San Francisco Institute for Global Health: Culture and HIV Prevention in Cambodia $27,136$
- University of California, San Francisco: Syphilis chemoprophylaxis in homosexual men with HIV infection using doxycycline $30,375$
- University of Minnesota: INSIGHT - Leadership $415,190$
- University of Minnesota: INSIGHT - FLU 002 & FLU 003 $184,711$
- University of Minnesota: START Study $222,008$
- University of Minnesota: STALWART Study $80,134$

### Victorian Cytology Service
- Planning female and male vaccination and cervical screening strategies to achieve optimal prevention of HPV-related disease (ARC Linkage Partner) $4,620$

### Pharmaceutical Industry Funding
- Abbott Australasia Pty Ltd $200,000$
- CSL Limited $104,545$
- CSL Limited (ARC Linkage Partner) $67,167$
- Gilead Science Inc $511,405$
- Gilead Science Pty Ltd $535,000$
- GlaxoSmithKline Pty Ltd $25,000$
- Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd $5,369$
- Merck Sharp & Dohme $258,213$
- Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd $3,380$
- Pfizer Inc via Quintiles Pty Ltd $31,154$
- Quintiles Pty Ltd $6,665$
- Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Ltd via Quintiles Pty Ltd $11,925$

**Total** $20,658,034$
Cooper D, Emery S. Abbott Australasia Pty Ltd. A randomised open-label study comparing the safety and efficacy of ritonavir boosted lopinavir and 2N9t) RTI backbone versus the same ritonavir boosted lopinavir and raltegravir in patients virologically failing first-time NNRTI/2N(t)RTI therapy: the SECOND-LINE study. $600,000 (2010-2012)

Cooper D. NSW Office for Science and Medical Research/NSW Medical Research Support Program. Institute of Virology Infrastructure Funding. $4,577,278 (2010-2011)


Dore G. NIH. Treatment of recently acquired hepatitis C virus infection (ATAHC 2 ). USD 353,564 (2010-2011)

Emery S. American Foundation for AIDS Research. A randomised open-label study of second-line combination ART. $125,000 (2010-2014)

Grulich A. NHMRC Program Grant: Sexually Transmitted Infections: Causes Consequences and Interventions (SPANC). $1,779,120 (2010-2014)

Kalbör J. NHMRC Program Grant: Sexually Transmitted Infections: Causes Consequences and Interventions. $1,779,120 (2010-2014)

Kalbör J. NHMRC Program Grant: Sexually Transmitted Infections: Causes Consequences and Interventions (Contingency) $50,000 (2010-2014)

Kelleher A. NHMRC Project Grant: siRNA Induced transcriptional silencing of HIV-1: Elucidating the mechanisms and exploring options for delivery. $494,500 (2010-2012)

Law M. NHMRC Program Grant: Sexually Transmitted Infections: Causes Consequences and Interventions. $1,779,120 (2010-2014)

Liu B. NHMRC Australian Based Public Health Training Fellowship: Notifiable communicable diseases and reproductive health. $300,032 (2010-2013)

Liu B. NHMRC Australian Based Public Health Training Fellowship: Notifiable communicable diseases and reproductive health (Direct Research Costs). $20,000 (2010-2013)


Matthews G. Gilead Science Pty Ltd. Variation in serum levels of HBsAg and eAg following initiation of HBV-active HAART in HIV-HBV co infected individuals and the relationship with subsequent long-term virological and serological outcomes. $61,690 (2010)


Wilson D. NHMRC Project Grant: Modelling and economic evaluation of hepatitis C epidemic mitigation strategies in Australia. $448,500 (2010-2012)

Wilson D. NHMRC Project Grant: Modelling the interaction between sexually transmitted infections and HIV transmission to inform public health policy. $523,750 (2010-2012)

Wilson D. NHMRC Project Grant: Modelling the interaction between sexually transmitted infections and HIV transmission to inform public health policy. $523,750 (2010-2012)


Wilson D. UNAIDS. Evaluating the effectiveness of needle and syringe programs in Eastern Europe $67,362 (2010-2011)

Zablotska-Manos I. NHMRC Project Grant: Social norms regarding HIV/STI risk and risk reduction behaviours among men who have sex with men in Australia. $667,563 (2010-2012)
Conference presentations

Australian Antiretroviral Guidelines Consortium Sydney, January
Law M. Advice to Consortium regarding when to start antiretrovirals.

Vietnam HIV/AIDS Evaluation Conference Hanoi, January
Wilson DP. Introduction to modelling evaluation of HIV epidemics.

Wilson DP. Data and inputs for Vietnam Epidemic Model for evaluation of provincial harm reduction programs.

Wilson DP. Vietnam impact assessment of harm reduction programs.

17th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2010) San Francisco, February


2010 Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver Banff (Canada) February

World Congress of Internal Medicine Melbourne, March
Templeton D. Sexually transmitted infections in men who have sex with men.

Udayana University Workshop on capacity building in HIV clinical and epidemiological research Yogykarta, March
Kaldor JM. Longitudinal methods in clinical and public health research.

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations HIV Educators Conference Sydney, March
Wilson DP. Current epidemiological trends in blood-borne viral and sexually transmitted infections.

World Congress of Internal Medicine Melbourne, March
Templeton D. Sexually transmitted infections in men who have sex with men.

Evolving Knowledge and Practice: 11th Social Research Conference on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases Sydney, April
Coupland H, Maher L. Adjudicating injecting drug users’ candidacy for hepatitis C treatment: Conflicting provider, patient and public health realities?

Deacon RM, Newland J, Harris M, Treloar C, Maher L. Hepatitis C seroconversion: Using qualitative research to enhance surveillance.


McInnes D, Prestage G, Bradley J. Responsibility, risk and negotiation in the discourse of gay men’s group sex.


Paynten IM, Jin FY, Prestage GP, Kaldor JM, Imrie J, Grulich AE. Attitudes towards biomedical HIV prevention technologies among a cohort of HIV negative gay men in Sydney, Australia.


Prestage G. Enlightened self-interest or ‘cultures of care’?


Wilson DP. Modelling the impact of changes in HIV testing rates and estimating the outcomes from the introduction of rapid HIV testing in Australia

Wilson DP. Rapid HIV Testing: it’s about time!


Zablotska I. HIV testing among gay men/MSAA in Australia.


2010 International Liver Congress Vienna, April

Matthews GV, Grebelj J, Hellard M, Yeung B, Marks P, Rawlinson W, Kaldor JM, Dore GJ on behalf of the ATACHC Study Group. Differences in early virological decline in individuals treated within the Australian Trial in Acute HCV suggest a potential benefit for the use of ribavirin.

Matthews GV, Grebelj J, Hellard M, Yeung B, Marks P, Rawlinson W, Kaldor JM, Dore GJ on behalf of the ATACHC Study Group. Week 4 HCV RNA is the optimal predictor of SVR in both HIV positive and negative subjects within the Australian Trial in Acute HCV.

21st International Harm Reduction Association Conference Liverpool UK, April


Olsen A, Banwell C, Dance P, Maher L. “It’s just one of those things” Living with hepatitis C and contextual meaning of health among women who inject drugs.

Multinational Influenza Seasonal Mortality Study Copenhagen, May

Microbicides 2010 Conference
Pittsburgh, May

16th International Union against sexually transmitted infections (IUSTI) Bali, May
Wilson DP. Developing a national strategy for reducing syphilis epidemics among gay men.

Donovan B. Chlamydia (invited seminar presentation)

Donovan B. Should males be vaccinated against HPV? (invited plenary).

4th Annual Rural Health Conference, Broome, May

Health in Difference, Aboriginal Lesbian, Gay and Sistergirl Health Issues – Sameness or Difference Sydney, May
Ward J. Keynote speaker

AFAO HIV Educators’ Conference, Sydney, May

Prestage G, Brown G, Hurley M. PASHing with the results – implications and application of the results of the PASH study.

Advances in Public Health and Health Services Research at UNSW 2nd Annual Symposium May
Kaldor JM. Collaborative research on the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections in Papua New Guinea.

Australian Centre for HIV & Hepatitis Virology Research (ACH2) 6th National Workshop Yarra Valley, Victoria, June
Jacka B, Mokanq E, Pham ST, Carrera A, Kelleher A, Matthews G, Dore G, Applegate T. mANNAyme ePCR used to quantify multiple genotypes in Hepatitis C infection.


Australia’s health 2010: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Canberra, June
Wilson DP. Infectious diseases: sexually transmissible infections in Australia.

Australian Centre for HIV & Hepatitis Virology Research (ACH2) Conference Melbourne, June


International HIV & Hepatitis Virus Drug Resistance and Curative Strategies Workshop, Dubrovnik, June

International HIV & Hepatitis Virus Drug Resistance and Curative Strategies Workshop, Dubrovnik, June

12th International Symposium on Chlamydial Infections, Salzburg, June

National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee Conference Injecting drug use and Aboriginal Communities Adelaide, July
Ward J. Keynote speaker

XVIII International AIDS Conference Vienna, July
Cooper DA. New drug developments and future options in antiretroviral therapy.


Jin J. Transmission risks for ASM


Maher L, Phloung P, Mooney-Somers J Sichan K, Masy T, Stein E, Couture MC, Sansothy N, Paige K. (on behalf of the Young Women’s Health Study Collaborative). “It makes us dare to do what we did not dare to do before”. Amphetamine-type stimulant use and HIV/STI risk behaviour among young female sex workers in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Annual Report 2010

Wilson DP. Development of Australia’s syphilis plan

Wilson DP. Evaluating the cost-effectiveness of needle and syringe programs in Australia.

Wilson DP. Reducing syphilis among HIV-infected and -uninfected gay men in Australia.

Wilson DP. Serosorting is not a safe strategy for reducing HIV in most contexts.

NHREC International Clinical Research Network Meeting Vienna, July
Puls R. Altair Week 96 data update and Encore study update

China T Regs 2010 Conference Shanghai, July

HIV and Ageing Symposium, National Association for People Living with HIV/AIDS Sydney, June
Murray M. HIV The ageing of the HIV epidemic in Australia.

26th International Papillomavirus Conference Montreal, July
Botes L, Pett S, Marriott D, Carr A, Cooper DA, Hillman R. High acceptability of self-collected anal swabs and High Resolution Anoscopy (HRA).


5th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences Sydney, August

NRL Annual Conference, Melbourne, August

Primary Health Care Conference, Darwin, August

17th International Meeting on Hepatitis C Virus and Related Viruses Yokohama, September


Grebely J, Bryant J, Hull P, Hopwood M, Lavis Y, Dore GJ and Treloar C. Specialist assessment and treatment of hepatitis C virus infection among injection drug users in New South Wales, Australia
Australasian Epidemiological Association Conference Sydney, September-October

Grulich AE. Is the reported association between birth order and risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma due to selection bias?

Cervical and other HPV Related Cancers – Not Yet Beaten: AOGIN Australia
Grulich AE, Stein AN, Jin F, Hocking JS, Brotherton J, Regan DG, Conway EL. The epidemiology of anal cancer in Australia: implications for the development of anal cancer prevention services.

Joint Australasian Sexual Health Congress and ASHM Conference session, Sydney, October
Brashaw C, Hart C (for). Donovan B, Pickett J (again)?) (invited debate). This house believes that STI control should be a priority in HIV control.

Australasian Sexual Health Conference Sydney, October


Donovan B. Female sex workers in Asia and the Pacific Region (invited symposium presentation).


Grulich AG. Session Chair: sexual health closing plenary/debate.


Guy R. SMS reminders increase HIV/STI re-testing rates among men who have sex with men at Sydney Sexual Health Centre.


22nd Annual Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Conference Sydney, October

Boyd MA (Session chair). ASHM Conference Case Presentation Breakfast.

Bradley J, Prestage G. Rapid HIV testing: what we want, and when we want it.

Brown G, Eillard J, Mooney-Somers J, Prestage G. ‘I was not some young tourist’: Acquisition of HIV among Australian men while travelling and working overseas.

Byakwaga H. Antiretroviral therapy intensification with raltegravir or anti-lipopolysaccharide immunoglobulin from hyper-immune bovine colostrum in antiretroviral-treated patients exhibiting a suboptimal CD4+ T-cell response: the CORAL Study.


Down I, Bradley J, Gray R, Hoare A, Wilson D, Prestage G. What would gay men be prepared to do to reduce rates of HIV?


Gray R, Hoare A, Ghaus MH, Down I, Bradley J, Prestage GP, Wilson DP. Which public health strategies will likely have the greatest impact in reducing HIV incidence among gay men in NSW?

Grulich AE. Cancer prevention in people with HIV.

Grulich AE. Session Chair. Issues in HIV prevention in Gay Men 2.

Guy R. SMS reminders increase HIV/STI re-testing rates among men who have sex with men at Sydney Sexual Health Centre.


Hood CL, Lim HGW, Suzuki K, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Promoter-targeted siRNA colocalizes with Argonaute 1 and 2 during RNA-induced transcriptional gene silencing of retroviral infections.

Jansso J. Evaluating and forecasting the medical outcomes and geographical distributions of people living with HIV in Australia.

Jin F, Jansso J, Law M, Prestage GP, Zablotska I, Purcell D, Emery S, Cooper DA. Per-contact probability of HIV transmission in homosexual men in Sydney in the era of HAART.

Kaldor JM. Interdisciplinary research on HIV prevention: A work in progress.

Kaldor JM. Recent microbiocidal clinical trials and trials expected to report in the near future.

Kaldor JM. Regional Issues in HIV Prevention: chair.

Karimina A. Survival of HIV-infected children: a cohort study from the Asia-Pacific region.


Kwon A. The impact of needle syringing.
programs on HIV risk behaviours among IDUs in Jakarta, Indonesia.


Law MG. When to start – interpreting cohort studies – a guide for the non-expert; the Australian Antiretroviral Guidelines session.


Maher L, Hudson S. Sex/drug synergies and the street sex work environment.


McGrath P. Self-based rationales are important primary motivators for volunteers in HIV research.


Prestage G. Disclosing HIV status to casual partners.

Puls R, Srasubkul P, Petoumenos K, Emery S, Cooper D on behalf of the Altair study group. Anthropometric and metabolic outcomes in a 48 week randomized, open-label study of three different combination antiretroviral regimens as initial therapy for HIV infection.


Schneider, K. Economic evaluation of monitoring virologic responses to antiretroviral therapy in HIV-infected children in a resource-limited setting: Thailand.


Wilson DP. HIV prevention issues in the region.

Winston A, Duncombe C, Li PCK, Gill MJ, Kerr SJ, Puls R, Petoumenos K, Taylor-Robinson SD, Emery S, Cooper DA for the Altair Study Group. Two patterns of cerebral metabolite abnormalities are detected on proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy in HIV+ subjects electively commencing ART.


Zablotska I, Holt M, Mao L, Prestage G. Australian gay men never tested for HIV.


Zhou J, Sirisathana T, Kiertiburanakul S, Chen YMA, Han N, Lim PL, Kumarasamy N, Choi JY, Merati TP, Yunihashtuti E, Law MG on behalf of The TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database. Trend of CD4 cell count in HIV-infected patients with HIV viral load monitoring while on combination antiretroviral treatment results from the Treat Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD).


10th International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection Glasgow, November
Jackson AG, Hill A, Else LJ, Back DJ, Malley R, Pul S, Amin J, Lin E, Boftto M. Pharmacokinetics of plasma lopinavir/ritonavir following the administration of 400/100, 200/150, and 200/50 mg twice daily in HIV negative volunteers.


Treat ASIA symposium on Cancer and HIV in the Asia-Pacific Bangkok, November Gullich AG. The evolving global epidemiology of cancer and HIV

Gullich AG. Anal cancer epidemiology in immune deficient populations.


5th Australian Health and Medical Research Congress Melbourne, November Kelleher AD. New insights into antiviral CD4+ T cell responses Identifying, isolating and expanding human antigen-specific effector and regulatory CD4 T cells.

30th Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) Conference Canberra, November Applegate T, Birkett DJ, McIntyre CJ, Jaramillo AB, Symonds C, Murray JM. In silico modeling indicates the development of HIV-1 resistance to multiple shRNA gene therapy differs to standard antiretroviral therapy.


Wilson DP. Describing and interpreting the epidemiology of Chlamydia nationally and in the Queensland and international context.


8th Dangerous Consumptions Conference, ANU, Canberra, December Higgs P. Film and photos. Tools for reducing drug related harm.


Hellard M, Sacks-Davis R, Higgs P, Bharadwaj M, Bowden DS, Drummer H, Aitken C. ELISPOT testing shows very few injecting drug users avoid hepatitis C virus exposure.


Seddiki N, Phetsouphanh C, Xu Y, Lloyd A, Cameron B, Cooper DA, Zauders J and Kelleher AD. Preferential depletion of Peripheral Memory CD4+CD73+ T Cells by Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 Infection


Zhou J, Sirisathana T, Kiertiburanakul S, Chen YMA, Han N, Lim PL, Kumarasamy N, Choi JY, Merati TP, Yuniastuti E, Law M on behalf of The TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database. CD4 Cell Count Slope in Asian HIV-Infected Patients with HIV Viral Load Monitoring While on First Combination Antiretroviral Treatment.


Hellard M, Sacks-Davis R, Higgs P, Bharadwaj M, Bowden DS, Drummer H, Aitken C. ELISPOT testing shows very few injecting drug users avoid hepatitis C virus exposure.


Seddiki N, Phetsouphanh C, Xu Y, Lloyd A, Cameron B, Cooper DA, Zauders J and Kelleher AD. Preferential depletion of Peripheral Memory CD4+CD73+ T Cells by Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 Infection

Advances in Public Health and Health Services Research: 2nd Annual Symposium UNSW, May
Poynten JM, Jin FY, Prestage G, Mao L, Kippax S, Kaldor J, Grulich AE. Non-Occupational Post Exposure Prophylaxis Against HIV (NPEP) and Subsequent HIV Infection in Homosexual Men: Final Data from the HIRM Cohort.

AIDS 2010 Pre-conference workshop Vienna, July
Hoed CL, Lim HGW, Suzuki K, Cooper DA and Kelleher AD. Promoter-targeted siRNA colocalizes with Argonaute 1 and 2 during RNA-induced transcriptional gene silencing of simian immunodeficiency virus infection

XVIII International AIDS Conference Vienna, July

Lee MP, Zhou J, Messerschmidt L, Honda M, Ditangco R, Li PKC on behalf of the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database. Impact of sex on long-term treatment outcomes of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) in the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database.


Sutherland R, Lake R, Prestage G. The development of an HIV risk reduction framework for gay and other men who have sex with men (MSM) in New South Wales, Australia.

Thein R. Current and projected cases of hepatitis C co-infected with HIV among Australian injecting drug users: The impact of needle and syringe programs.


26th International Papillomavirus Conference Montreal, July

2010 Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAC) Boston, September
Lim PL, Zhou J, Ditangco R, Sungkanuparph S, Law M on behalf of the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database. Lack of Prophylaxis against Pneumocystis Pneumonia and Mortality Results from the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD).

7th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference Melbourne, September


Polis S, Zekry A, Maher L. Factors associated with non-adherence to hepatitis B viral medications.

White B, Enriquez J, Maher L. [on behalf of the UNSW HCV vaccine Initiative]. Acceptability and Willingness to Participate in Future Hepatitis C Vaccine Trials among Young People who Inject Drugs in Sydney.

St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney symposium Sydney, September


Bailey M, Marks K, Xu Y, Zauders J, Seddiki N, Danta M, Boesecke C, Gelgor L, Cooper DA, Emmerly S, Kelleher AD and PINT Study Group. Isolation of CD4+ T-cells from the Gut Associated Lymphoid Tissue (GALT) of patients with Primary HIV Infection (PHI) and Chronic HIV infection (CHI) using a high speed cell sorter.

Hoed C, Lim HGW, Suzuki K, Cooper DA and Kelleher AD. Promoter-targeted siRNA colocalizes with Argonaute 1 and 2 during RNA-induced transcriptional gene silencing of simian immunodeficiency virus infection.


Murray D, Swaminathan S, Kelleher AD. A systems biology approach to mapping microRNA changes in monocytes during HIV-1 infection.

19th Australasian Epidemiological Association Annual Scientific Meeting Sydney, September

Australasian Sexual Health Conference Sydney, October

Drummond F. Is azithromycin effective for asymptomatic rectal chlamydia in men? An audit.

Faintey CK, Hocking J, Gurrin L, Chen My.
Donovan B, Bradshaw CS. Continued rapid decline in warts after national quadrivalent HPV vaccine program.


Wang Y, Manokaran N, Higgins AN, Templeton DJ. Self-collected anal swabs in men who have sex with men: what would be missed?


Ward J. The first ever national survey of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sexual health: knowledge, risk practice and health service access.

Waters EK, Smith AM, Philip DJ, Regan DG. Proposed surveillance of genital warts among men who have sex with men.

Zablotska I. Pleasure and sexual health: familiarity with casual partners, knowledge of HIV status and condom use.

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About NCHECR

The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR) was established in 1986 by the Australian Government to fulfil a number of key roles in Australia’s fight against HIV/AIDS. NCHECR is affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales.

NCHECR’s primary functions relate to the co-ordination of national surveillance programs, clinical research and clinical trials. While its original focus was exclusively on HIV/AIDS, NCHECR’s work has expanded to encompass hepatitis B and C, and sexually transmissible infections. NCHECR also conducts research into the transmission, prevention and natural history of these infections.

NCHECR’s research program has increasingly taken on a regional focus, with major collaborative programs in Thailand and Cambodia. NCHECR conducts research through nine programs. Dissemination of NCHECR’s research output is undertaken through publication in scientific journals and a range of surveillance reports.

This publication was funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the position of the Australian Government.

ISSN No. 1441-2640

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National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research Annual Report 2010
Editor: Louisa Wright
Design: Luke Gover/Gadfly
Images: Claire Reynolds